

Journalists angered by 'secret' talks on London merger

Journalists at the "Evening News", London, yesterday demanded details of the proposed merger with the "Evening Standard" and hinted at industrial action. Their union representatives will today urge the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to refer the

deal to the Monopolies Commission. An attempt to remove Mr Jocelyn Stevens, the chief executive, from the board of Beaverbrook Newspapers was foiled by Sir Max Aitken, the chairman, it has been disclosed.

MPs in deputation to minister

Peter Godfrey

Journalists at the "Evening News", London, have demanded to be fully informed by noon of developments in the proposed merger of the "Evening Standard" and the "Evening News". The union representatives will today urge the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection to refer the deal to the Monopolies Commission.

The union deplored the secrecy of the talks between the two companies which, it maintained, had caused unnecessary suffering. "Neither side has saved its employees with the openness and frankness that is due," it said.

An attempt to placate the journalists was made yesterday by Mr Louis Kirby, Editor of the "Evening News". He conferred in a letter to them that merger talks were in progress. He assured them that no decision on staffing had been made, and denied rumours that journalists from the "Standard" would be dismissed.

While acknowledging the journalists' concern, Mr Kirby said there was no question of the "News" being wound up to merge with the "Standard". The new London paper, he said, would be "in the nature of an evening paper".

Like his counterpart at the "Standard", Mr Simon Jenkins, a underlook, to make every effort to safeguard the interests of his staff.

Mr Kirby's letter was welcomed by the journalists, but some to imply that heavy losses of jobs would be proposed. Mr Michael Rodwell, father (chairman) of the News NUJ chapel, said that the editor's letter was his first official communication a staff confirming the merger.

The short-lived dismissal of Mr Jocelyn Stevens

By Sheila Black

An attempt to remove Mr Jocelyn Stevens, the chief executive, from the board of Beaverbrook Newspapers was foiled last week by Sir Max Aitken, the chairman, who is recovering from a stroke. He reinstated Mr Stevens and confirmed his position. He was followed by the resignation of Mr Peter Hetherington, a joke deputy chairman with Mr Stevens. A source close to Mr Stevens commented that "it was Cecil King's dismissal of Mr Stevens that had been a relief holiday in Austria, timing to coincide with the absence of Canada on business of Mr Stevens. No developments talks concerning the sale of

the "Evening Standard" to Associated Newspapers, the announcement of Lord Goodman, expected during their absence but, in case of the need for immediate decisions, power of attorney was given to Mr Hetherington, who had been mainly responsible for the financial calculations for the proposed sale of the "Evening Standard" and the lifetime for the "Daily Express".

En route from London Airport on his return to Britain, Mr Stevens was told by Mr Hetherington that he had been dismissed by the board. He was asked not to return to the office and told that his possessions would be sent on to him. Mr Stevens saw Sir Max Aitken, who immediately stated him. That was followed

by the resignation last Friday of Mr Hetherington, a resignation that coincided with the appointment of Sir Max's son, Mr Maxwell Aitken, to the main board of Beaverbrook.

The incident does not signify a change in the main issue, the sale of the "Evening Standard" to Associated, which owns the "Evening News". Except for Mr Charles Wintour, former editor and chairman of the "Evening Standard" and now managing director of the "Daily Express", the board is unanimous. Mr Hetherington also supported the deal. Mr Wintour is expected to approve if he can press home conditions governing the protection of "Standard" staff.

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High winds and rough seas delay attempts to bring North Sea blow-out under control Repair team lands on stricken Ekofisk oil platform

From Craig Seton Stavanger, April 25

High winds and rough seas were tonight threatening to disrupt and delay the operation to bring under control the blow-out of oil and gas at the Ekofisk platform in the Norwegian North Sea.

Throughout today the weather has deteriorated and although a repair team got on to the platform from the anchored pipe-laying vessel Chocaw, little preparatory work was completed for the final effort to cap the flow of oil.

About 12,000 tons of crude residual oil have poured into the sea since the blow-out on Friday 200 miles from the British coast. The growing slick is now estimated to be nearly 20 miles long by six miles wide and is moving slowly northwards, but Norway's anti-pollution agency said that there was no immediate danger of pollution to the British, Norwegian or Danish coasts.

The Norwegian authorities and Phillips Petroleum Company, which operates the Ekofisk oil complex for the Phillips Norway group, now have the Bravo platform surrounded by a flotilla of ships awaiting the chance to plug the leak and clear the water of oil.

Six ships carrying booms to surround the slick and skimming vessels to take the oil from the surface of the sea were involved in the operation by tonight, as well as nine ships carrying chemical dispersants.

But while the booms and skimmers are unlikely to be of any use while the sea is rough, Phillips and the Norwegian Government have indicated that they are reluctant to use chemical dispersants to break up the slick because of the danger to fish stocks. The Danish Government has already warned them not to use chemicals.

The Norwegian Government announced that an independent committee of inquiry would be established shortly to investigate the blow-out at Bravo and the pollution which has resulted. It is expected that the country's oil safety measures will be re-examined in the light of this accident, which is Norway's worst oil disaster.

Norway's Labour Government is coming under increasing pressure from some of the minor opposition parties over the incident, which is likely to throw doubt on the country's plans to survey and eventually drill for oil above the 62°N parallel.

This afternoon it was reported that two more ships were on their way from Göteborg, Sweden, and another from Denmark to help in the operation. Phillips have other vessels standing by with the team of oil-fighters led by Mr Paul "Red" Adair.

As soon as the full operation begins on the Bravo platform, the oil men will attempt to cap the 43in diameter pipe from which oil is being forced up

wards by pressure at nearly 5,000lb per square inch from below the seabed.

This afternoon in a ship-to-shore radio link with the Norwegian fire-fighting vessel Seaway Falcon, Mr Oyvind Hollekim, the captain, told me that the ship was still standing a few yards off Bravo, pouring thousands of gallons of water to cool the escaping oil.

He said that the lack of wind early this morning had allowed gas to build up around the platform, and oil had accumulated on the helicopter landing pad, making it impossible for a helicopter to put down a repair team.

"It was impossible to use a helicopter then and it is impossible now. The wind is getting up and is now at 30 knots and the weather is getting worse."

The captain added that the British fire-fighting vessel Forties Kiwi was standing by the platform, but was not yet being used.

Mr Hans Christian Bugge, of the Norwegian pollution control

agency, said that booms and skimmers would soon be at the platform with capacity for clearing oil from the sea's surface at the rate of 8,000 tons a day. But he would not be drawn on how quickly they could be used if the weather continued to worsen.

Mr Gordon Goering, director of Phillips's Norwegian operation, confirmed that the Ekofisk complex had been shut while the company tackled the Bravo crisis. There was little danger of fire and the 350 Phillips offshore employees were in no danger.

"We believe everything is going according to plan", he said. "If everything went smoothly at the time of the final cap it could be completed within a few hours, but this would depend on the weather."

In the meantime, the drilling vessel Orin, which will arrive in the Ekofisk field by tomorrow, will prepare for the possibility of drilling a second relief well to reduce the flow.

Hopes for tomorrow, page 6

Treasury's spending chief moves to Trade

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Leon Platky, the Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is responsible for controlling public expenditure, is to move to the Department of Trade as permanent secretary to succeed Sir Peter Thornburn, who is retiring in August.

Two other second permanent secretaries have announced their departure from the Treasury in the past two months. Mr Alan Lord left for Dunlop, and Sir Derek Mitchell is to join Guinness Mahon next month.

When Sir Bryan Hopkin retires from the post of chief economist adviser in the autumn, only the permanent secretary, Sir Douglas Wass, will remain from the top five who began 1977.

Mr Platky is one of the Treasury's most distinctive postwar characters. He is an ebullient Lancastrian, and a policy-maker of high distinction, who expresses his views in colourful and direct language. His colleagues say: "Leo hasn't a drop of blood in his veins as it's all adrenalin."

After a lifetime in the Treasury's spending divisions he has turned the control of public expenditure into something of a crusade. Public confidence in the Cabinet's ability to govern as well as to spend, he has turned the Treasury, he imposed cash limits on two thirds of government spending, setting limits that could be breached only by a decision of the Cabinet.

"Leo has been magnificent, standing there and saying 'They shall not pass'," an admiring colleague commented. So effective is the new arrangement.

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If you have ears... Mr Callaghan and Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, wear special muffs as protection against jet noise at RAF Bruggen, in Germany. Mr Callaghan has been planning to visit British forces in Germany for some time and had the idea of asking Herr Schmidt to join him as a political gesture to emphasize Britain's commitment to NATO (Dan van der Wat writes).

The two men put on camouflage jackets to watch a takeoff of 30 Jaguar fighters, a missile exercise and demonstrations of other activities at the airfield of four operational P bases in West Germany.

Contrary to rumours, subject that did not during the fleeting conversations between inspections was the issue of West German offset payments to Britain to help meet the foreign exchange costs involved in maintaining forces in Germany. The West Germans, who regard this arrangement as a last vestige of military occupation, are opposed to renewing the agreement which expired last year. They say the amount involved is insignificant compared with the financial aid Bonn has given London in many other ways. The offset issue is therefore likely to remain in limbo for a long time.

Court ruling on Slater appeal likely today

By Clive Borrell

An attempt began in the High Court yesterday to reverse a decision of Mr Kenneth Barracough, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who in January ruled that Mr James Slater, the financier, should not be extradited to Singapore to face criminal charges.

Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, for the Republic of Singapore, said Mr Barracough was in a state of serious confusion over whether he should apply Singapore or English law when reaching his decision.

The reasoning of the magistrate was wrong in law, he asked himself the wrong questions and declared himself wrongly on the record."

Mr Waterhouse told Lord Justice Shaw, sitting with Mr Justice

Nield and Mr Justice Stocker. Mr Waterhouse was applying for leave to "move for orders of certiorari and mandamus".

Mr Waterhouse said there was no question of placing Mr Slater, aged 47, in double jeopardy, as there were at least seven other legal reports to which he could turn, with finally an appeal to the Privy Council.

On January 26 last, Mr Barracough refused to order the extradition of Mr Slater on six charges alleging that he conspired to commit a criminal breach of trust and to cheat shareholders of Haw Par Bros International of Singapore. There were no prima facie cases against him, Mr Barracough ruled.

Law Report, page 11

Zaire forces capture key town in Shaba

Kolwezi, Zaire, April 25.—Zaire forces, backed by Moroccan troops, captured the town of Mutsahsha today, the first big victory of an 11-day counter-offensive against rebels in the southern province of Shaba, a military spokesman said.

Mutsahsha, 50 miles west of here, was seized by rebels a month ago today and was regarded by the Zaire Government as an important target symbolizing its resolve to push back the invaders.

The town, perched on the railway that links up in Angola with the British-owned Benguela line, was the scene of a surprise strike just before dawn, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the advance was continuing towards Kasaji to the west, where a group of 12 Plymouth Brethren missionaries from Britain, New Zealand and Canada are based. They have not been heard of for several weeks, informed sources said.

The last major physical obstacle to the Government thrust was the Lubudi River, crossed by a damaged bridge which yesterday was still under repair.

"We repaired the bridge and crossed. The enemy knew we were advancing, but did not know we would cross the bridge quickly," the spokesman said. "There were some wounded," he added.

Kasaji, the next target, was the scene of bitter fighting over a month ago.—Reuters.

Ethiopian plane hijackers shot

The crew of an Ethiopian airliner on an internal flight killed two hijackers trying to escape to Saudi Arabia today, Addis Ababa radio said in a report monitored in London.

It described the men as members of the Eritrean Liberation Front. They were killed after a struggle, and the airliner landed safely at Addis Ababa.—Reuters.

Journalist expelled, page 6

Fresh cut by banks in cost of borrowing

Borrowing costs were reduced for the sixth time this year when clearing banks announced cuts in base rates from 9½ to 9 per cent. The fall, allowing last Friday's cut in minimum lending rate to 8½ per cent, means that the rate has been reduced by 1½ per cent since January 1. Most personal overdrafts will now cost between 12 and 14 per cent. Blue chip borrowers will pay 10 per cent.

Japan rebuffs UK

Senior Japanese officials have described "unrealistic and unfeasible" the call last week by Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, that Japan should double its imports from the United Kingdom in the next two years to rectify the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Cost of Strasbourg

The time and money spent by the British Government in answering complaints made against it to the European Commission of Human Rights at Strasbourg is greater than that of any of the 12 other countries that have ratified the convention allowing individuals cases to be taken to Strasbourg. Page 5

Britain offers deal on farm prices

In return for a slightly larger butter subsidy, the British Government is now prepared to accept the package of higher EEC farm prices which it rejected as too inflationary a month ago.

Tory vote strategy

The Conservatives will avoid a direct "no" vote at the end of tomorrow's Commons debate on the Government's prices Bill, but they have decided to table a reasoned amendment that might win support from Liberals and Ulster Unionists.

Pressure on pact

The social contract came under fresh pressure from clothing and engineering workers and the breakaway Scottish Labour Party. But the shopworkers' union voted to support a phase-three pay deal after its leader, Lord Allen of Fallowfield, had said the Government would fall if the pact was not renewed.

Foreign Office plan

The reported recommendation of the Think Tank, that the Foreign Office should be merged in an enlarged home civil service, might produce an even more powerful Foreign department. Functions of the Department of Trade and Ministry of Overseas Development would probably be attached. Page 6

No EEC move yet on Middle East

Dr Owen, Britain's Foreign Secretary, who is in Cairo, said yesterday that the time was not yet ripe for a Middle East initiative by the EEC, but the question might be considered later this year. He has had talks with Mr Ismail Fahmy, his Egyptian counterpart.

Ulster warning

A "loyalist" ultimatum gave Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, seven days to introduce tougher security and announce a new parliament. There were strong indications that a strike similar to that of 1974 might begin in a week's time.

Hando visitor: Mr Pham Van Dong, the Vietnamese Prime Minister, has begun an official visit to Paris.

Robben Island: In great secrecy, a group of journalists is taken on a visit to South Africa's maximum security prison.

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Letters: On the exchange rate, from Mr Bryan Gould, MP; and on preserving hospital beds, from Sir Francis Avery Jones.

Obituary: Equities drifted back on lack of interest and the FT index closed 3.3 lower at 439.0.

Business Diary: The Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck stories may shock the pop fans but don't worry the stock exchange.

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HOME NEWS

Tories will divide Commons on prices Bill, but avoid direct 'no' vote

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

While avoiding a direct "No" vote on the Government's Price Commission Bill, which seeks to strengthen price controls, the Conservatives will divide the Commons tomorrow on a reasoned amendment that may win support from both the Liberals and the Ulster Unionists.

The Shadow Cabinet last night decided to table the following amendment:

This House declines to give a second reading to a Bill which establishes a system of price control that will discourage investment and destroy jobs without any genuine benefit to the consumer and does nothing to mitigate the Government's disastrous record on prices which are rising at 19.9 per cent compared with 8.4 per cent in October, 1974.

The Conservatives condemn the Bill as a measure of economic management, but recognize that it may be necessary, suitably modified in committee, as part of the bargain with the unions for a further instalment of the wage-restraint policy.

They would prefer the level of prices to be settled by greater competition rather than by elaborate bureaucratic controls. They hope to defeat the suggestion that price controls should continue indefinitely.

On the latter point, they will probably succeed, because clause 17, which is involved in the argument, is also opposed by Labour backbenchers because of its impact on wage bargaining. The left-wing Tribune group, indeed, last night decided to demand that clause be withdrawn because it would render employers immune to actions for breach of contract if they reduced wages to keep within price control limits.

The Liberals have been critical of the Bill, drafted, because they think the criteria on which prices could be justified need to be clarified. They also want stronger powers to investigate monopolies and the nationalized industries.

While the Conservatives were drafting their amendment yesterday Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, was in Grimsby, taking part in the campaign for Thursday's election, which was caused by the death of Mr Crosland, Foreign Secretary.

Mr Hattersley said he had no doubt that the people of Grimsby supported the Bill and wanted the Government to act decisively against unjustified price increases before polling.

Mr Robert Blair, the Conservative candidate, ought to make clear where he stood, he added.

"If he would not support the Bill, there is no point in his running around Grimsby talking about prices. Nobody denies that inflation is the country's major problem. The present rate is bad for the economy as a whole, bad for individual families who struggle



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Robert Blair, the Conservative candidate, studying the rising fish prices at Grimsby dock auction yesterday.

to balance their weekly budgets and particularly bad for the lower-paid, the pensioners and large families."

Mr Hattersley said Labour's plan to control inflation had three main components. A third year of wages policy was required to reduce costs at home and bolster confidence abroad so that we could maintain the value of the pound.

Secondly, there had to be strict control on public expenditure. "It is impossible to confine the cuts to any one section of government activity, but it is preposterous to demand increases in expenditure, as the Conservatives continue to do, and pretend to be responsibly concerned about inflation."

The third requirement was a robust resistance to any change in the value of the pound, unless the change could be more than outweighed

by other benefits to the British consumer.

Mr Hattersley said the Price Commission Bill contained the strongest and most effective powers to control prices that Britain had ever known. It would oblige companies contemplating price increases to give the Price Commission 28 days' notice of their intention. It would enable the commission to investigate any proposals that it suspected to be unreasonable or unnecessary and to hold the price at its original level while the investigation was carried out.

Most important, it would empower the Government, if the investigation confirmed that a price rise was unjustified, to extend the price freeze for nine months. The effect would be a price freeze on selected goods and services that might last for a full year.

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Phase three gets some backing and new threat

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The social contract came under fresh pressure yesterday from clothing workers, engineering workers' leaders, and the rebel Scottish Labour Party, but the shopworkers' union struck to its traditional attitude of wage moderation.

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers said in their report for the union's conference on May 9: "Since the beginning of the year annual price rises have outstripped wage increases—a situation which must be rectified."

The warning comes after rank-and-file demands for a return to free collective bargaining which the union's Defence Association and the Ulster Workers' Council.

In 1974 the UWC organized the strike that brought down the power-sharing Administration, and the UDA, the largest Protestant paramilitary group, played an important part in enforcing the strike.

The morning's Belfast News Letter, a local newspaper, will carry an advertisement from the council, which reads in part:

In the name of the Ulster loyalist people we give notice to Mr Mason that he has seven days to begin a powerful and effective offensive against the IRA and announce steps to implement the Convention report. The road is open to you, Mr Mason. If you do not act now, Ulster loyalists will act for you.

It is known that a second half-page advertisement has been booked to appear in the newspaper on Friday but the council has not yet decided whether to place the advertisement.

Mr Ernest Baird, leader of the Ulster Unionist Movement, said: "We would not be putting in the advertisement without making some plans. I would not rule out a strike. All we are saying is that at the end of seven days something will happen and it won't be a one-day wonder."

Mr Mason's first response to the prospect of a strike came in a statement last night after he had met leaders of the Orange Order, who want him to pursue a stricter security policy.

The issue concerning us is whether we can hope to retain a Labour government and whether we have earned the right to do so," he said. "Are you prepared to place loyalty and trust in those in the TUC who are expected to represent the interests of our movement together with Callaghan, Foot, Healey and Benn? Or are you prepared to trust Keith Joseph and Mrs Thatcher?"

Delegates voted for a motion that commits the union to seek a return to productivity bargaining and the reintroduction of "sensible differentials" in the next round of talks.

The vote in favour of continued restraint, 208,000 to 93,000, comes from a union whose members nearly all earn less than £40 a week. Three-fifths of the members are women. The feeling among speakers advocating the pay policy was that the members have fared better under the social contract than they would have done with free bargaining.

Lord Allen's eight points for the basis of a phase-three bargain with the Government were: A permanent system of selective price controls; abolition of all or most income tax

for more of the lowest paid; reintroduction of subsidies on basic foods; reform of the EEC's common agricultural policy; provision of another £1,000m a year for the National Enterprise Board; temporary selective import controls; a Government veto on redundancies while grant-aid schemes are expanded; stopping the City hindering the pound from rising on foreign exchanges.

He said that because the deal would largely pay for itself it would not violate the terms of the Government's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund.

Lord Allen said the union was looking for a less rigid policy: "The need is for an orderly return to free collective bargaining with stage three policies which will help the low-paid at present caught in the poverty trap and remove some of the anomalies that have become apparent during the past two years."

He appeared unenthusiastic about a "lumpy bargaining" arrangement like Mr Healey, who addressed the conference on Sunday, Lord Allen told delegates that uncontrolled bargaining meant that those with the greatest muscle would take the greatest share.

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Seven days' ultimatum by 'loyalist' leaders

From Stewart Tendler
Belfast

"Loyalist" leaders yesterday drew up an ultimatum for Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, giving him seven days to introduce a stricter security policy and announce a new Ulster parliament or face confrontation.

There were strong indications yesterday that the confrontation will take the form of a fresh loyalist strike, similar to the one in 1974, and the action might begin in a week's time. The ultimatum was produced by the United Ulster Action Council, which is seeking a meeting with Mr Mason.

The council is led by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and MP for Antrim north, and includes among its members the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Workers' Council.

In 1974 the UWC organized the strike that brought down the power-sharing Administration, and the UDA, the largest Protestant paramilitary group, played an important part in enforcing the strike.

The morning's Belfast News Letter, a local newspaper, will carry an advertisement from the council, which reads in part:

In the name of the Ulster loyalist people we give notice to Mr Mason that he has seven days to begin a powerful and effective offensive against the IRA and announce steps to implement the Convention report. The road is open to you, Mr Mason. If you do not act now, Ulster loyalists will act for you.

It is known that a second half-page advertisement has been booked to appear in the newspaper on Friday but the council has not yet decided whether to place the advertisement.

Mr Ernest Baird, leader of the Ulster Unionist Movement, said: "We would not be putting in the advertisement without making some plans. I would not rule out a strike. All we are saying is that at the end of seven days something will happen and it won't be a one-day wonder."

Mr Mason's first response to the prospect of a strike came in a statement last night after he had met leaders of the Orange Order, who want him to pursue a stricter security policy.

The issue concerning us is whether we can hope to retain a Labour government and whether we have earned the right to do so," he said. "Are you prepared to place loyalty and trust in those in the TUC who are expected to represent the interests of our movement together with Callaghan, Foot, Healey and Benn? Or are you prepared to trust Keith Joseph and Mrs Thatcher?"

Delegates voted for a motion that commits the union to seek a return to productivity bargaining and the reintroduction of "sensible differentials" in the next round of talks.

The vote in favour of continued restraint, 208,000 to 93,000, comes from a union whose members nearly all earn less than £40 a week. Three-fifths of the members are women. The feeling among speakers advocating the pay policy was that the members have fared better under the social contract than they would have done with free bargaining.

Lord Allen's eight points for the basis of a phase-three bargain with the Government were: A permanent system of selective price controls; abolition of all or most income tax

for more of the lowest paid; reintroduction of subsidies on basic foods; reform of the EEC's common agricultural policy; provision of another £1,000m a year for the National Enterprise Board; temporary selective import controls; a Government veto on redundancies while grant-aid schemes are expanded; stopping the City hindering the pound from rising on foreign exchanges.

He said that because the deal would largely pay for itself it would not violate the terms of the Government's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund.

Lord Allen said the union was looking for a less rigid policy: "The need is for an orderly return to free collective bargaining with stage three policies which will help the low-paid at present caught in the poverty trap and remove some of the anomalies that have become apparent during the past two years."

He appeared unenthusiastic about a "lumpy bargaining" arrangement like Mr Healey, who addressed the conference on Sunday, Lord Allen told delegates that uncontrolled bargaining meant that those with the greatest muscle would take the greatest share.

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A reprieve expected for Mersey ferries

From Robert Parker
Liverpool

A reprieve for the Mersey ferries, the threatened closure of which has provoked opposition from several local MPs and among many local people, will probably be announced today.

The ferries were discussed at a meeting yesterday between Mr William Seldon, chairman of Merseyside County Council, and the chairman of the district councils in the area.

Today Mr Seldon is expected to recommend to the council the retention of the ferries for at least some transport use, as well as for leisure and amenity.

A sum of money has already been allocated to the ferries for next year.

The district disagrees about what should happen to the ferries. One which has no direct benefit from them, objects having to pay towards the loss they make a year. But it is thought that a compromise has been reached, involving a reprieve.

An enabling Bill is being promoted in the Commons by the Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive, which is successful, would give the authority power to close the four ferries operating between Birkenhead and Liverpool and Birkenhead and Wallasey.

Head who stole from his school fined £300

From Our Correspondent
Northampton

Dr David Abbott, the 1850-year headmaster of a grammar school, was fined £300 after being subjected to abuse for taking up the post after his predecessor had resigned in protest at the change to the comprehensive system, Northampton magistrates were told yesterday.

Dr Abbott, aged 39, of Roman Hill, Barton, Cambridgeshire, who resigned from Northampton Boys' Grammar School after his arrest early this year, pleaded guilty to four charges of stealing money from a coffee machine in the common room, stealing books and school funds, and fiddling his expenses.

He asked for 10 similar offences to be considered and was fined a total of £300 and ordered to pay £238 in compensation.

Strike holds up interviews for new race body

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A one-day strike by 130 staff of the Community Relations Commission prevented interviewing yesterday for jobs at the new Commission for Racial Equality, which is to replace the old Commission for Racial Equality.

The strike, by members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, is over two senior staff, Mr Surendra Kumar, the staff, and Mr Aaron Haynes, who the staff say, "have been made redundant although there are still four vacancies in their grade."

Staff are expected that there may be more redundancies.

Miners injured

Six miners were injured when a runaway wagon crashed at Maerdy colliery, Mid Glamorgan, South Wales, yesterday.

Tussle begins for share-out of the rate-support grant

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The local authority associations representing councils throughout England and Wales have begun bargaining for their shares of the Government's rate-support grant for next year, with the ink scarcely dried on rate demands for this year.

As ratepayers were considering their payments for 1977-78, comparing them with the 15 per cent increase in the national average by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, the Association of County Councils said yesterday that the swing of resources to the metropolitan areas had gone too far.

Mr Carleton Hetherington, secretary, rejected the argument put forward by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA) that the swing to the cities had corrected a swing in the opposite direction from 1967 to 1973.

He said the non-metropolitan areas had had to cope with the needs of more people as the population had spilled out from the conurbations. "We do not accept the argument that there should be such a swing back."

The inner cities, to which Mr Shore had promised government resources, should be financed mainly outside the rate-support grant, his association believed. "The best way to lift up the inner cities is by regenerating industry and employment, and money for that should come from the departments of industry and employment."

The association would like the system of providing money according to need to be adjusted to take account of the real needs, based on population, rather than have it based on the amount of past spending of an authority.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is arguing in favour of changing the system to provide more money to the inner urban areas. It said that Mr Shore was under pressure from those who felt that move had gone far enough. "The switch has happened because the grant now recognizes the growing problems of social and physical deprivation in the urban areas."

The AMA says that the gain to the contributions since 1974 has been 5.3 per cent, compared with a loss of 7.5 per cent from 1967 to 1973.

Police likely to reject new pay offer

The Police Federation is to continue its campaign for "fair play" on pay, despite a new offer made yesterday by the Home Office within the stage two guidelines of income policy.

A statement by the federation made clear that it was unlikely to be accepted. "We shall be pressing for very substantial improvements. The campaign for fair pay for the police will continue." Police are still being denied an award of £8 a week under stage one.

Dartmoor jail officers to cut overtime

Prison officers at Dartmoor in their dispute over living conditions decided yesterday to work only 10 hours a week overtime, compared with the present average of 25 hours.

The 150 officers, who say they have the support of colleagues at more than fifty British jails, also decided not to cooperate with a Home Office inspection team next week.

Shopworkers back social contract after warning that Labour could fall

From Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Scarborough

The social contract survived a crucial test among 400,000 shopworkers yesterday after Lord Allen of Fallowfield, chairman of the TUC economic committee, had given a clear warning that the Government would fall unless there was a phase three pay policy.

The conference of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw), at Scarborough, voted two to one for an extension of income policy. But during an acrimonious debate it was far from clear which way the decision would go.

It was the first big union conference to vote on the TUC Government pact after grudging support for its continuation from the Wales and Scottish TUCs.

Lord Allen, who is the union's general secretary, was heckled as he appealed for another new policy. He named eight proposals which the TUC claimed would create a right economic and social climate for phase three. The recurring theme of his speech was that the door would be opened to Mrs Thatcher if the social contract was thrown out.

Delegates voted for a motion that commits the union to seek a return to productivity bargaining and the reintroduction of "sensible differentials" in the next round of talks.

The vote in favour of continued restraint, 208

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HOME NEWS

A reprieve expected for Mersey ferries

From Robert Parker

Liverpool

The Mersey ferry service, which has been threatened with closure, is expected to survive, according to a report from a source familiar with the plans of the Mersey Transport Corporation.

The source said that the Corporation's plans to replace the ferry service with a new bus service, which would be operated by the Corporation's own bus company, had been rejected by the Mersey Transport Corporation's board.

The Corporation's board had decided to continue the ferry service, but to replace the existing fleet of ferries with a new fleet of ferries, which would be operated by the Corporation's own bus company.

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The local elections 6: Apathy may be majority party's biggest threat on Tyneside

Labour stronghold is no longer to be taken for granted

By Craig Seton

Labour must pin its hopes of retaining power on Tyneside and Wear Metropolitan County Council on its ability to persuade voters that local issues are more important than the party's national unpopularity.

If local issues play only a small part on May 5, the Labour majority is in danger. Labour holds 72 of the 104 seats on the council. The Conservatives have 26, with support from three of the Labour councillors, and the Liberals have three. Two seats are vacant.

With that much strength, Labour leaders are reluctant to lose control, but will be satisfied with a majority. Conservatives are convinced, however, that Labour will pay the price for taking its support in the North-east too much for granted too often.

A realistic assessment suggests the Labour majority will prove too large for the

Conservatives to take overall control. Their best hope is to become the largest party, perhaps by one or two seats, in which case the Liberals may achieve their best prospect of holding the balance of power.

The 104 seats will be contested by 254 candidates, including 101 from Labour, 97 Conservatives and 39 Liberals. Thirty minutes before nominations closed, five National Front candidates put themselves forward for seats in Sunderland, three of them Labour marginals. Three Conservatives are also likely to whittle down Labour majorities.

The National Front intervention in an area where male unemployment runs more than 14 per cent is seen as calculated to exploit the growing apathy of Labour supporters there as high, long-term unemployment corrodes the morale of the town's working class.

Apathy may be Labour's biggest danger. At the election in 1973 the turnout at Tyne

and Wear was the lowest in the country, at 32 per cent. Since then the tide has been with the Conservatives; Labour has lost almost three tenths of the district council seats it has defended, and may lose 18 seats on the basis of swings recorded in the 1975 and 1976 district elections.

Labour will lose overall control if it loses 22 seats, which would require a swing of about 18 per cent. The success or failure of the Liberal campaign will be crucial to both main parties, but Liberal claims that they will increase their representation from three to about 15 seem highly optimistic.

Unemployment in Tyne and Wear ranges from more than 6 per cent in Newcastle to more than 12 per cent in South Tyneside. Understandably, the Labour group, led by Mr Michael Campbell, have made industrial development a top priority.

Against a background of decline in the county's traditional industries, such as shipbuilding and heavy engineering, Mr

Campbell points out that 35 nursery factories have been built and 33 more are planned. A "bonus for industry" scheme to help expanding companies has spread 1,000 new jobs throughout the county. A small companies finance board is also intended to assist companies with loans and grants.

The Labour group claims credit for having held public transport fares steady for nearly two years; kept the increase in the county rate per cent down to 1.5p this year; and enabled pensioners to travel free on county buses, ferries and trains.

During the four years of Labour control the Metro rapid transit system for Tyne-side has become a reality, albeit at a cost of £161m, and the Labour group hopes that with car ownership as low as 35 per cent of all households in the county it will significantly improve public transport.

The Conservatives, led by Mr Arthur Grey, say the Metro concept was theirs. They are unhappy about the Labour

group's preoccupation with public transport to the detriment of the private motorist. They particularly want more help for ratepayers and would examine the county's rate structure with a view to possible cuts. They would also reduce council committee meetings, prune the staff and promise more autonomy to the districts. They are particularly scathing about the five consumer advice centres Labour established, costing £500,000 a year.

The Liberals consider Tyne and Wear metropolitan county far too big and want it abolished. They want a directly elected regional authority, with many of the county's responsibilities transferred to district councils.

There is every indication that the Liberals will be badly squeezed as the two main parties fight for control, but if they manage to hold their three seats they may play an important role in the future administration of Tyne and Wear.

Stronger role urged for the Ombudsman

By a Staff Reporter

The strengthening of the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) is urged in a report published today by Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists. The report, prepared by its committee on administrative law, comes 10 years after the Parliamentary Commissioner Act, 1967. It concludes that although the institution has worked well it has done so within a restricted frame of reference.

Its existence is not well enough known and is underused, the report adds. That is because the Ombudsman can be approached only through an MP and is limited to dealing with questions of alleged maladministration.

The institution is potentially one of the most important safeguards for the citizen, but it needs to be developed from its modest beginning and given a more effective and widely known role.

To that end, the committee of 16, chaired by Mr David Wedderburn, QC, suggests that there should be an obligation to consult the Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner before the appointment of a new commissioner and that neither the commissioner nor his staff should be chosen exclusively from the Civil Service.

The committee also recommends that Treasury control over the number of the Ombudsman's staff should be replaced with Civil Service control and that the scope of his jurisdiction should be widened. He should be empowered to investigate any "unreasonable, unjust or oppressive action" instead of "maladministration" and to undertake investigations on his own initiative. He should also have power to suggest changes in legislation.

Easier access to the commissioner would be achieved if complaints could be made directly to him by members of the public, who at present can do so only through MPs. A detained person should be able to send letters to him or an MP without the correspondence being opened by the prison authorities.

Finally, the report urges, the commissioner should supply full details of his "results report" to the press unless asked not to do so by either the complainant or the referring MP. He should also make more use of press conferences and interviews on radio and television, and make his quarterly and annual reports more readable and informative.

Our Fettered Ombudsman (Justice, 2 Clement's Inn, London, WC2, £1.50).

Theft at hotel

The manager and elderly night porter of the Adria Hotel, Queensgate, south Kensington, London, were overpowered and bound by two men who took £10,000 from a safe early yesterday.

Diana Dors gains ban

Miss Diana Dors, the actress, has been granted a High Court ban until next Friday on the publication of her life story by Wolf Rilla, the author, and Everest Books.

Rabies law broken by Saudi prince

By Kenneth Gosling

A Saudi prince, aged 13, broke Britain's anti-rabies law when he brought two whippets into Heathrow airport, London, yesterday. Saudi Arabian Airlines was fined £500 and ordered to pay £50 costs. The prince was not summoned.

The unnamed prince, travelling first-class, carried the dogs in a cardboard box. Mr Roger Cox, for the prosecution, said, "On arrival, an embassy Mercedes car was waiting for him. Mr David Rosser, chairman, said: 'There can be no exemption by rank or favour. Prince or not, the laws of this country have to be observed. In this particular situation, the obligation should have been all the more great.'

Mr David Miller, for the defence, said the prince had travelled with a party of children in the care of a British teacher, Miss Julie Huxley. The crew had failed to notice the dogs in a dimly lit cabin during a night flight. Summoned to court, Miss Huxley and the pilot, Captain Mahmood Bukhary, were withdrawn.

The airline admitted the offences, and was fined £300 for each dog. The dogs were taken to an RSPCA hostel and put in quarantine.

£31,000 raid

Housebreakers took cash and jewellery valued at about £31,000 from the home in Paddington, London, of a niece of King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, on Sunday.

Hope of prosperity from fish farming project

Regional report

Ronald Faux Golspie

firms are producing pewter and copper ware successfully. "Although we have oil 12 miles off the east coast at Brora, it does not appear that we are going to get any real benefit from it because we have no suitable service ports. Oil seems to have passed this place by, except for the men who travel 50 miles to the platform yard at Nigg. That place puts roach beef on many Sutherland tables, but what happens when the oil has gone? he asked.

Sutherland has the same potential as other parts of the west coast where fish farms producing trout, salmon and oysters have been established successfully and there is a trend towards the crofter co-operatives are planned; one at Loch a Chaidh-FI, near Ardmore Point, known to business executives who have realised that their wainalines there for John Ridgway's school of adventure.

Next month Mr Ridgway and his four crofter partners in the venture will receive 6,000 smolt salmon for the cages suspended in the loch and begin two years of careful husbandry, before reaping their first harvest from the sea.

"It is not a straightforward way of making money. The help and advice of a fish farm manager down the coast will be vital, particularly in the early stages. It is a high risk business needing a capital outlay of up to £20,000."

"I think sheep fish can be irretrievably lost through a hole in the net or simply die overnight. It will be at least two years before we see a profit and we have done this without help from the Government."

The Crofters' Commission encourages such developments as a way of halting the drift from the Highlands. Mr James Shaw Grant, its chairman, said: "I think that by their nature crofters tend to lead a cooperative kind of life, particularly with their common grazings and their sheep stock clubs."

Perhaps there is a lesson here. We have found that a large club, with shareholders having only a small stake each, tends to work only half as well as a small number with a large investment each." On that basis Mr Ridgway and his co-partners can look forward to a handsome first harvest, weather and the Gulf Stream willing.

Actors vote for 24-hour strike over cut in grants

By Kenneth Gosling

By a large majority actors and actresses voted yesterday for a 24-hour strike in protest against Government cuts in grants for the arts. Equity members, worried about less money for the subsidised theatre, more closures, and a steady drop in employment, also urged the union to seek the support of other entertainment unions and of theatre workers.

The new Equity council will

probably consider the demand at its first meeting today.

Yesterday's annual meeting deplored the sale to South Africa of a BBC television drama series, *How Green Was My Valley*. The BBC described the sale as a mistake and offered an apology. Equity was also given £1,000 in compensation, since the sale was a breach of its policy that no programmes featuring its members should be sold to South Africa.

But Equity passed an emergency resolution demanding a public apology and a penalty payment "of such a large amount that such a 'mistake' will never be made again."

Mr Marius Goring, opposing the penalty payment, said that by accepting a "blood payment" Equity would be condoning what had happened.

The union's council, in a statement reaffirmed its policy on South Africa; the BBC had declared it said, that it was not aware of that policy when the programme was sold. By the time the mistake was spotted the corporation could not legally prevent the showing of the last episode.

The conference carried resolutions calling for a minimum wage of £60 a week.

Some spectacular Italian scenery is now available in Britain.

ENGLAND

Almfield: William Sample Motors. Tel: 01665 3247.
Ashford: Laleham Garage. Tel: 01435 591.
Aylesbury: Bladwell Motors. Tel: 0494 44 525.
Basingstoke: Clover Leaf Cars. Tel: 0256 3896.
Bedford: Cross Valley Motors. Tel: 0234 64491.
Bexhill-on-Sea: Cooden Motors. Tel: 04243 2224.
Bingley: Jowett Motors. Tel: 019 66 3658.
Birmingham: Colmore Depot. Tel: 021 843 4001.
Blandford: Emblem Sports Cars. Tel: 02562 2358.
Bolton: Parkers of Bolton. Tel: 0204 31322.
Bournemouth: Rob Walker (Winton). Tel: 0202 512121.
Bristol: Continental Cars Clifton. Tel: 0272 37199.
Bromley: Norman (Bromley). Tel: 01-460 2648.
Brough: Hestle Auto Engineers. Tel: 0462 66725.
Burgess Hill: Tiley's (Sussex). Tel: 04446 43431.
Canterbury: Friars Motor Co. Tel: 0227 6297.
Cardiff: Charlie Oates. Tel: 063 373 2450.
Catterham: Chasemore & Edwards. Tel: 23 42385.
Cheltenham: Swindon Road Service Station. Tel: 0242 32167.
Chester: Red Rose Motors. Tel: 0244 311404.
Chichester: Swan Garage. Tel: 0243 573271.
Chislehurst: David Short Motors. Tel: 0472 83892.
Colchester: D. Salmon Cars. Tel: 0206 46455.
Dorchester: Derrim Service Station. Tel: 332 2345.
Derby: Mark Pritchard Motors. Tel: 0332 40599.
Doncaster: Springwell Motors. Tel: 0302 854674.
Easington: Cornfield Garage. Tel: 0143 522244.
Epsom: Epsom Garage. Tel: 0382 54414.
Exmouth: Exmouth Garage. Tel: 0392 72653.
Farnham: Huxford. Tel: 03292 82911.
Folkestone: J. D. Ross. Tel: 1953 (0303) 862113.
Forest Row: Wych Cross Motors. Tel: 034 281 3864.
Gillingham: Autocrafts. Tel: 01474 (0634) 52673.
Guildford: Punticks. Tel: 0483 63761.
Harrogate: Robinson's Motor Cars. Tel: 0423 886351.
Hartfield: C. Way Autos. Tel: 30 7123.
Hereford: Whitestone Service Station. Tel: 0432 75464.
Huddersfield: Lockwood Motor Garage. Tel: 0484 2824.
Hull: The Myron Garage. Tel: 0482 25848.
Ipswich: Goli Garage. Tel: 0473 78377.
Kantworth: Miller Bros. Tel: 0826 53073.
Kettering: Brington Motors. Tel: 0536 790224.
Kidderminster: Colmore Depot. Tel: 0562 68211.
Kings Lynn: Hill & Osborne. Tel: 0553 85296.
Leader Bank of Witley. Tel: 0582 854718.
Leicester: Thumby Garage. Tel: 0534 412143.
Lincoln: Ricardo Emiliad. Tel: 0522 31735.
Liverpool: Bolton & Sons. Tel: 051 489 4453.
LONDON.
N.W.7: Maurice Fraser. Tel: 01-858 8891.
S.E.1: Waverley Carriage. Tel: 01-828 1922.
S.W.1: Peter Wolfenden. Tel: 01-828 7818.
W.1: Parnham Garages. Tel: 01-835 5418.
W.4: The Chequerboard. Tel: 01-495 0322.
Walsley: Ben Morgan. Tel: 0623 810330.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Irvine Motors. Tel: 0632 32131.
Northampton: Brington Motors. Tel: 0604 38787.
Norwich: Porter Motor Co. Tel: 0603 46346.



Beta Monte-Carlo £5,927.22

Lancia are already well known for bringing the beauty of Italy into this country.

Such breathtaking sights as the Beta HPE, the high performance estate, that looks nothing like an estate.

Or the Beta Coupés and Spyders, with their exotic looks and performance.

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Minister considering what action is needed after N Sea blow-out: company responsible for pollution

House of Commons

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is now considering what further action is needed arising from the North Sea Ekofisk oilfield blow-out. In a statement on the incident, he said he would be keeping in touch with the Norwegian Government about safety matters, what caused the blow-out, and what other action might be necessary on the part of the countries concerned.

Mr Benn said: Oil is currently escaping at a rate of 2,000 to 3,000 tonnes per day and a large oil slick is forming. Responsibility for dealing with the blow-out and consequent oil pollution rests with the operator, Phillips Petroleum, and the Norwegian Government.

Yesterday I had talks in Oslo with the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Norwegian Government has been offered whatever help and assistance they require from the British Government in dealing with the incident. They will, of course, be keeping the Government in close touch with developments.

The priorities are to prevent the outbreak of fire, cap the well and stop the flow of oil and gas and deal with the oil spillage. The Secretary of State for Trade (Mr Edmund Dell) has responsibility in relation to measures required by the Norwegian Government to deal with oil pollution at sea, which is now the first priority.

I am now considering what further action is indicated arising from this incident. The Government is in close touch with the Norwegian Government about safety matters, what caused the blow-out and what other action might be necessary on the part of the countries concerned.

Mr Tom King, Opposition spokesman on energy (Bridgewater, C), said this is a serious matter and we note with regret that the Government had to withdraw from the rig. Would the same procedures operate for a British rig in similar circumstances?

The Department of the Environment published a report last week which said there was a 50-50 chance of a blow-out occurring on the North Sea oilfield within the next five years, and also that special procedures and arrangements for dealing with it were considered to be adequate. Does he believe that is so?

The gravity of what could follow from this accident underlines just what is at risk, and the kind of security and other arrangements which could affect a rig underline the need for a harder look at security procedures.

Mr Benn—I associate myself with his regret that the team that mounted the platform yesterday under difficult circumstances has now had to withdraw. The weather conditions there are difficult apart from the technical complexities which have not been experienced in similar circumstances elsewhere.

I have had a list prepared for me of the preparations made by this and other governments from 1969 onwards, when the team was responsible for oil spill clean-up was given to the Department of Trade, right through to discussions that took place as recently as last week at an official level as part of a continuing series among all the signatories of the Bonn Agreement of 1965, which was to deal with matters of this kind. I will see this is made available.

It is also clear that with the best degree of preparations that could be made, there are hazards that will be anticipated. The kind of preparations that can be made in advance of actual experience will have to be recommended in the light of that experience.

The Norwegian minister told me, and I accept it from him, that his own command structures set up in Norway had come into existence well before the accident. The dispersal ships were available with spray equipment, and the dispersant needed. There are obviously lessons to be learned from this and I am not giving an impression that I could possibly be satisfied.

Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen, North, Lab)—With the prevailing winds in the North Sea it is Norway which is most at risk even if the incident had occurred on the British side of the median line. It would be wrong to identify the risk as being in some way specially exposed to incidents of this kind.

Mr Jeremy Bray (Motherwell and Wishaw, Lab)—Will a public inquiry be held by the Norwegian Government? Will a public inquiry be held by the Norwegian Government? Will a public inquiry be held by the Norwegian Government?

Mr Benn—I cannot anticipate what any such inquiry would be. I am sure that the information we have is very close and I am sure all the information will be shared with us and made generally available.

Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen, North, Lab)—The Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Wedgwood Benn, has said that the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association have a coordinating role and I shall take this question up with them.

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Nothing that has so far occurred has revealed any obvious weakness. Even the arrival of the team from Texas was achieved within 18 hours of the accident.

Mr Benn, answering a further question, said: One of the things which became clear from earlier experience is that the operators must accept responsibility for pollution. They cannot off-load it on to governments. The operators have a keen interest in seeing this does not occur. Under the regulations I am under, every operator is required to submit to the Government, and has submitted, plans for dealing with an oil spill. All these plans, some of which I have seen, have been tested by experienced engineering staff from the petroleum engineering division. On that side a great deal has been done.

Our experience in handling oil was not tested by the Torrey Canyon incident.

Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C)—As this is an international problem, will the minister take steps to convene a conference of all the European nations, and to the north-west Atlantic for the purpose of coordinating their monitoring of oil spillages of this kind?

Mr Benn—The Secretary of State for Trade (Mr Edmund Dell) has responsibility in relation to measures required by the Norwegian Government to deal with oil pollution at sea, which is now the first priority.

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Mr Peter Emery (Hendon, C)—What percentage of oil delivered to this country could be affected in the next two years by this accident?

Mr Benn—It is impossible to indicate from one blow-out that we have any idea of the extent of the damage that could be done to the oil supply to the United Kingdom over the next two years.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirling, Lab)—Who is liable for the damage this oil spill may cause to the fishing grounds of Scotland? Instead of public money being used to foot the bill should it not come from the oil companies?

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Difficult negotiations on heavy electrical plant industry

Negotiations over the future structure of the heavy electrical plant industry were extremely difficult, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, stated when he indicated during question time that he was not in a position to give any kind of specific assurances.

The Secretary of State complained that recent statements by Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab) and Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab) were "wild and inaccurate" and that the Government's difficulties were "extremely difficult".

Mr Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab) had asked the Secretary of State for a statement on the outcome of his consultations on the future of the heavy electrical plant industry.

Mr Varley (Chesterfield, Lab)—I expect to be in a position to make an announcement shortly.

Mr Thomas—Would Mr Varley give me two categorical assurances? The first is that the option of placing a Drax B order with Parsons and telling GEC it will get no orders until it cooperates with the Government's industrial company, is still firmly open.

Will he underwrite the assurance given by Reynolds management at A. Parsons that they will not encourage any kind of merger with GEC without the agreement of the workers and can we have an assurance from Mr Varley he will not put Reynolds Parsons management in a position where they will have to pursue that course?

Mr Varley—I am not in a position to give any kind of specific assurances. I can only tell him that negotiations are extremely difficult.

He will know, as well as I, having read the CPSR report, that it is essential there should be some restructuring of the heavy electrical plant industry. Negotiations so far have been extremely difficult and I am bound to tell Mr Thomas that his statement over the last few days has not helped the position.

Mr Varley—The CPSR report, which is a study of the heavy electrical plant industry, is a study of the heavy electrical plant industry. It is a study of the heavy electrical plant industry.

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Mr Kenneth Clarke, an Opposition spokesman, said that the Government's difficulties were "extremely difficult".

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Mr Varley—Questions of the CEBG and the Drax power station must be addressed to the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Benn). I know of Mr Conlan's concern, and that of others, on preserving jobs. This is a factor we have in mind in considering these matters.

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HOME NEWS

AUEW will be asked to endorse stoppage by engineers at Heathrow

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are today to consider a recommendation that the strike by Heathrow maintenance men, now in its fourth week, should be made official.

Reginald Birch, the London area member of the AUEW engineering section, will propose endorsement of the action at a meeting to ground nearly 100 of British Airways' domestic and European flights.

At a meeting in a Southall hotel yesterday the strikers agreed to continue their protest. Talks with other unions on a common claim for pay improvements are continuing today, but there is an inter-union antagonism over the dispute.

In talks last Friday the engineering workers' five negotiators, who have been siding the strike, maintained that the other unions refused to talk about joint shift-work awards for 11,500 maintenance

men at the airport. They insist that their men will not go back until a common approach is agreed.

British Airways said last night that long-haul flights were operating normally; 70 per cent of short-haul services to Europe were being maintained; and some links with Bahrain and Edinburgh were in operation.

Mr Jack Garsky, one of the stewards leading the engineers' strike, said that more than two-thirds of normal flights were operating as "pure propaganda". He added: "Just ask a cab driver at Heathrow what business is like. He will tell you it's rotten."

A bulletin published by the strike leaders yesterday insisted: "Stay out until we win—that is the recommendation from the shop stewards' committee. If we go back now we will have gained nothing at all. The magnificent solidarity shown by all AUEW members over the past three weeks will have gone for nothing."

Full-pay car workers play cards in canteen

British Leyland said yesterday that it was paying about £60 a week each to 90 workers who spend the day in the canteen at the car body factory at Castle Bromwich, West Midlands. The men collect full wages although all have refused alternative work. According to some reports they play cards and dominoes.

The situation arose out of an agreement that ended a strike 10 weeks ago. Paint-shop workers had been told they would have to move to other jobs. But it was agreed that cases of men unwilling or unable to move jobs would be referred to the Transport and General Workers' Union at national level.

So far 250 men have accepted alternative jobs leaving the 90 unemployed. A union official said many had been doing the same work all their lives, such as skilled rectifying or paint spraying. The only work they had been offered was spot welding, for which some were not suitable.

The management said it is arranging a meeting with the union, possibly next week.



Watercross line: With the granting of the first light railway order directly from the Government to a private line, the Alresford and Ropley section of the Winchester and Alton Railway reopens to the public on Saturday. In May, 1975, the board decided to launch a public share issue to raise enough capital to enable the company to operate over the Mid-hants watercross line, which British Rail had ceased to use. Alresford has been the main source of watercross in southern England for about 116 years of use. Yesterday the company ran a steam train

2p a lb rise likely in margarine prices

By Hugh Clayton

Margarine prices will rise by about a tenth next month when the Price Commission has processed claims from manufacturers. The last rise was a fortnight ago.

The price is being pushed up by rising oil and fat costs just as the EEC has begun a determined effort to curb increases on butter.

Mr Victor Hill, managing director of Kraft Foods, said yesterday that his company had told the commission in the past fortnight that it needed an increase. He would not say how much had been claimed, but the rise is expected to equal the 2p a pound which shoppers faced earlier this month.

Van den Berghs and Jurgens, the Unilever company that supplies more than half the margarine eaten in Britain, has also asked for a rise of about 2p a pound. The company, which makes Stork, Echo, Blue Band, and Flora margarine, raised prices by 2p a pound a fortnight ago. It pointed out yesterday that oil prices have risen sharply.

Rules proposed for lorries with dangerous cargoes

By Our Transport Correspondent

Heavy lorries carrying dangerous substances will be forced to carry special identification marks under draft rules proposed by the Health and Safety Commission.

After a successful trial scheme, the new regulations will require all lorries with dangerous cargoes to carry a prominent hazard warning panel giving the following information in case of accident:

A diamond warning sign, internationally recognized for

dangerous cargoes; a substance identification code, informing rescue services exactly what dangerous material they have to deal with; an emergency action code, suggesting appropriate initial action by police and fire services; and a telephone number from which further specialist help can be obtained to cope with an emergency.

Comments from industry, unions, police and fire services are being sought before the regulations are introduced in the summer.

Tories suggest training for school managers

By Diana Geddes

Training courses for the hundreds of thousands of school governors and managers on school boards in the maintained sector should be provided by local education authorities, Mr John Stevens, opposition spokesman on education, said at a press conference yesterday.

The booklet, written by Mr Wilson Langford, vice-principal of Barnfield College, Luton, and published by the Conservative Party, though not an official party document, was a most important contribution to the party's continuing debate on education.

Unit says wages councils may collapse

By a Staff Reporter

Three million of Britain's poorest workers may lose the protection of legal minimum rates of pay because the wages council system, which sets the rates, may be in danger of collapse under the strains of income policy, the Low Pay Unit says today.

Mr Glyn Picton, an economics lecturer at Birmingham University and chairman of four wages councils, argues in the unit's Bulletin that if the next phase of income policy provides for more flexibility while inflation continues, the traditional procedures of wages councils may be inadequate for determining a variety of minimum rates.

Britain spends the most time and money in answering complaints made to Strasbourg

From Christopher Walker
Strasbourg

The time and money spent by the British Government in answering complaints made against it to the European Commission of Human Rights is greater than that of any of the 12 other countries that have ratified the convention allowing individual cases to be brought to Strasbourg.

For the past three years Britain has topped the tables prepared by the commissioners for the number of individual applications made against each country. Last year there were 153 against Britain, 142 against West Germany and only 30 against Switzerland, the country with the third highest total.

In addition to combating individual complaints, Britain has also had to meet the costs of the protracted torture case instituted by the Irish Government. After the recent hearings before the European Court of Human Rights those costs are believed to exceed £500,000.

There are many reasons for the many complaints made against Britain, including the continuing crisis in Ulster, which has left 250 individual claims of various breaches resulting from internment; adjoined, pending the court's verdict on the inter-state dispute.

Two hundred cases brought on behalf of holders of British passports in East Africa await a ruling by the Committee of

Minister of the Council of Europe. All allege a breach of article 3 relating to political persecution and article 5, which relates to the use of corporal punishment, and Mr Arthur Hilton, a black prisoner, who maintains that assaults by prison staff at Leeds and Liverpool jails amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment.

Mr Hilton's complaint against the Government has already been declared admissible after hearings in Paris and Leeds, and the commission will continue with further oral proceedings in Strasbourg next month.

Mr Hilton, who was serving a seven-year sentence for malicious wounding, also alleges breaches of articles 6 and 8, and contends that his situation was aggravated by his colour.

Three other people, Mr Clifford Noel, Mr Desmond Carre and Miss Judith Colne, have made applications over the censorship of mail in prisons. They allege that it is a breach of article 8 relating to the right to private and family life.

A further application claiming a breach of this article has been brought against Britain by the Association of Parents of Vaccine-Damaged Children. A decision on its admissibility will be made later this year.

The case arises partly out of the use of whooping cough vaccine and alleges a breach of article 2 covering the right to life.

Another case at the admissibility stage with potentially significant repercussions

brought against Britain is by four Broadmoor patients, referred to in Strasbourg anonymously as "A, B, C and D". All four allege that their confinement breaches article 5 (1), which relates to the detention of persons of unsound mind. The question of the admissibility and of the merits of the case against the British Government will be heard when the commission delegates hold their next plenary session in May.

At the same session the delegates will also discuss the commission's report on the case brought against Britain by Times Newspapers. That resulted from an alleged breach of article 10 of the convention concerning freedom of expression after an injunction had been imposed on The Sunday Times in 1972 to prevent the publication of an article about thalidomide.

Another case, already declared admissible, was brought by Mr Lazio Kiss alleging a breach of article 6 (1) after the Home Secretary had refused to institute criminal proceedings over an incident in which a prison officer assaulted Mr Kiss.

Two more applications relating to life in Northern Ireland have been filed against the Government. Both relate to alleged regional discrimination because of the unreformed laws against homosexuality, which still carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment in Ulster.

Champion arises for disadvantaged youth

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Youthaid, which has been given £26,000 a year for the first two years, yesterday announced its arrival on a scene dominated by the Labour Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

Mr Christopher Brooks, aged 26, resigned early this year as a manpower economist for a National Economic Development Council to become director of Youthaid. His main complaint against the commission is that the state-financed body is concentrating unduly on those who least need help, the educated, the motivated and the articulate.

Youthaid is setting out to champion the most disadvantaged, concentrating on school-leavers who do not have a GCE or CSE, with apparently nothing to sell to an employer. It will try to help girls more than it believes the commission is doing.

A prime concern is that the Government's industrial strategy is aimed at boosting manufacturing industry, with capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive priorities. Youthaid views without enthusiasm such activities of the commission, like the job-creation programme, which provides projects lasting usually between six and nine months. It believes short-term schemes are useless for long-term troubles.

Mr Brooks says: "We see Youthaid as a research body trying to answer questions, to design plans and proposals to put to the Government and public agencies. We want them to understand that the strategy on economic growth may create unemployment, not reduce it."

He argues that the attempt to stimulate capital-intensive investment will involve a changed range of skills, thus putting to even further disadvantage those at the lower end of the young unemployed market.

The EEC is giving £12,500 to research the troubles encountered by five groups of young people from school to work, categorized thus: two inner city labour markets, a rural labour market, a large manufacturing town, and a high employment area like the west of London. The northern-based Look Wide Trust is providing £52,000 over the first two years.

Youthaid's governing body includes Mr Gerald Fowler, Labour MP for The Wrekin (chairman); Mr Nicholas Scott, Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea; Mr John Foulerton, chairman of the North British Housing Group; Professor Maurice Peston, professor of economics at Queen Mary College, London; and Mr Peter Mandelson, vice-chairman of the British Youth Council.

Libel action settled

A High Court libel action by Dr Philip Bloom, a retired expert on sexual difficulties, over a book that he contended accused him of involvement in an abortion racket, was settled on agreed terms yesterday.

In a statement read to the court, Mr Michael Litchfield and Miss Susan Kentish, authors of *Babies for Burning*, said they wished to make it

Bench warning as eight football hooligans are sentenced

Eight football supporters were given custodial sentences by Mr Peter Badger the West London magistrate, yesterday. One of the eight had a previous conviction for running the "English end" of a cannabis heavy goods driver, of Humber Way, Langley near Slough, Berkshire, was sentenced to 14 days in jail after he had admitted using threatening words.

Bomb suspect faces three further charges

Ciaran McMorrough, a bomb suspect, faced three additional charges, including membership of the Provisional IRA, when he appeared again in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday.

Mr McMorrough, aged 27, who was arrested after a gun battle near the Irish border last month, had his trial on a total of five counts set for May 5. The new accusations put to him yesterday were shooting at an Irish Army soldier with intent to commit murder; having firearms with intent to prevent arrest; and membership of the IRA.

He had already been charged at earlier hearings with having firearms with intent to endanger life, and having detonators and fuses. Mr McMorrough, who was remanded in custody, spoke only in Irish.

Mr McMorrough was named in 1974 by Scotland Yard as a prime suspect for up to sixty terrorist bombings in Britain. So far there have been no moves to extradite him.

Nine years' jail for man in drug smuggling plot

From Our Correspondent
Gloucester

Ronald Rees, aged 33, an importer, was jailed at Gloucester Crown Court yesterday for nine years for running the "English end" of a cannabis smuggling plot.

Mr Rees, of Brynmill, Swansea, was convicted of illegally importing more than 4cwt of cannabis valued at £250,000, into Britain. The drug was said to have been found in a secret compartment in the base of a container full of melons from Turkey.

Mr Rees, whose company had hired the container, said he knew nothing about the cannabis and thought the secret compartment contained gold from Lebanon.

A London company director and a Turkish fruit keeper, were cleared by the jury of being involved in the offence. A Turkish fruit exporter, about whom the jury could not agree, was also released after the prosecution had said it would not ask for a new trial.

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Every week, children throughout the world are desperately needing your help. And although we're working all year round, for seven days we'll be making an extra special effort.

Please help. For every £1 you give, 87p is for children, only 13p goes in administration, 3p to publicity and 7p to fund raising.

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Save the Children is an international organization which helps children in need in over 50 countries, including the U.K.

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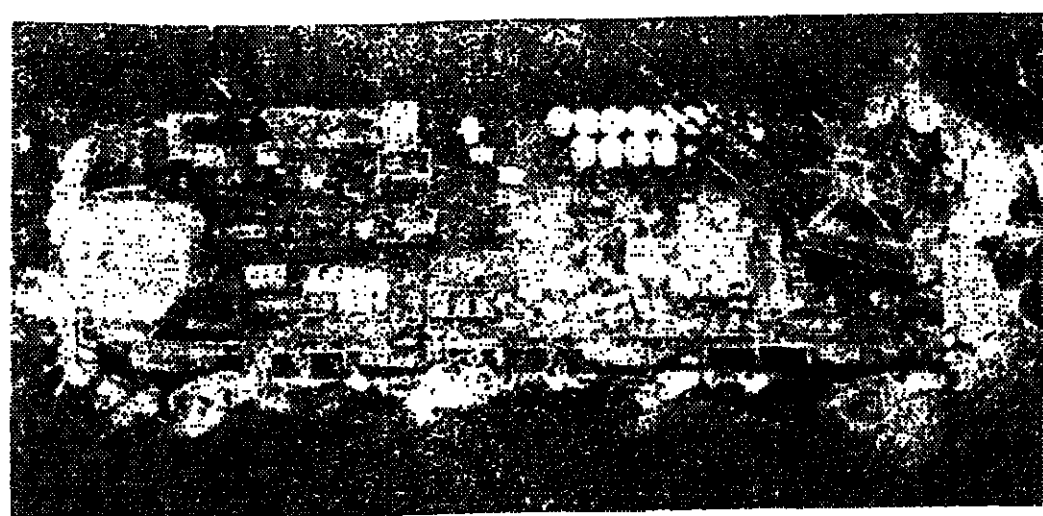
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EKOFSK DISASTER



The supply barge serving as the base for work to stop the oil leak from the Bravo rig.

Oil blow-out could be stopped tomorrow if roughening seas allow

By Roger Vielvoys
Energy Correspondent

Mr. Bill Thompson, director of drilling and production for Phillips Europe-Africa, said yesterday he hopes to have the blow-out well on the Bravo rig stopped tomorrow evening. But he gave the warning that the sea in the Ekofisk area was getting rougher and the success of the operation would be determined by the weather.

He also disclosed that the crew, working on the well when the blow-out occurred, had been unable to screw a 4½-inch steel tube, containing a safety valve, into the wellhead.

It normally took about two minutes to screw the tube into the wellhead and shut off the oil flow. It seemed likely that there had been an obstruction, which had prevented the screwing operation; but he declined to speculate on what it might have been or how it came to be there.

Mr. Thompson said the tube was always kept on hand during work-over operations, but it was not normally needed once the well had been stabilized by pumping tons of mud into the hole.

The crew had removed the "Christmas tree" and were installing temporary blow-out preventers before attempting to recover a cylindrical logging tool that had been lost down the well six months earlier.

The danger of fire on the rig

had now largely passed, Mr. Thompson said. The team would try to cap the well using special brass tools that would not produce sparks and they would also bring in air tools.

Their first job would be to clean up the area round the open wellhead. Bolts on the first of the temporary blow-out preventers would then be tightened and new rams inserted to cut off the oil flow.

A 1,500lb specially constructed valve unit would then be bolted on top of the wellhead, to enable the crew to pump mud into the well and bring the oil flow under control.

Working conditions on the rig were difficult, he said. All supplies including power and mud had to be brought in from the pipelaying barge, Chocoma, that was now alongside the platform. This would mean laying special pipes across the platform.

In the event of the crew not being able to stop the oil flow by mechanical means at the wellhead, Phillips would bring in a semi-submersible rig to drill a relief well.

Mr. Thompson said that Well B14, which is out of control, had been drilled directionally and had penetrated the reservoir 2,300 feet south-west of the platform.

In the event of the crew not being able to stop the oil flow by mechanical means at the wellhead, Phillips would bring in a semi-submersible rig to drill a relief well.

The danger of fire on the rig

\$25m limit on claims for pollution damage

By Martin Huckerby

Under an international agreement, liability for pollution damage caused by the Ekofisk oil spill is limited to only \$25m (£14.6m) the Department of Energy said in London yesterday. A new convention, providing much higher compensation, was agreed in December, but it has not yet been ratified by Britain, and cannot come into operation before next month at the earliest.

Liability for damage from the Ekofisk oil comes under the existing Offshore Pollution Liability Agreement (Opol).

Under its terms, if any of the Ekofisk oil reaches the shores of Britain, claims for compensation can be made directly to Phillips Petroleum, in theory anyone can claim, but local authorities would normally be responsible for seeking the compensation.

The department said that claimants were required to sign an agreement that, in the event of their acceptance of any money from an Opol member, they would not attempt to recover any outstanding amount from the operator via court action.

Thus if claims exceed the \$25m limit in the agreement, claimants dissatisfied with the amounts offered would presumably have to seek redress through the courts.

Scots group lists oil mishaps

From a Staff Reporter
Aberdeen, Fife

The blow-out on the Ekofisk platform has been added to a list of disasters drawn up by house-holders in Aberdeen and Dalgely Bay to establish that the petrochemical industry does not have all the answers to making its process plants absolutely safe.

The two towns on the north shore of the Forth estuary are opposing plans by Shell and Esso to build a terminal for liquid petroleum gas tankers on a nearby headland. The terminal would be linked by pipeline to a gas separation plant near Cowdenbeath, about seven miles away.

The residents' action group is demanding a planning inquiry instead of the normal public inquiry, because of the complex technical aspects involved.

In the report, the group cites 13 serious accidents at petrochemical plants throughout the world which have caused damage estimated at £140m. Mr David Jamieson, a spokesman, said: "Incidents like the Ekofisk blow-out can happen at all, it shows that nature can still take control."

Even worse was the explosion three weeks ago at Umm Said, in Qatar, which has had very little publicity. A natural gas liquefaction plant built two years ago blew up and was destroyed, causing £40m damage, killing seven people and injuring more, some of them more than a mile away. This was the same kind of plant as that proposed in Fife.

The report, published by a technical sub-group, catalogues 12 other accidents, including Flixborough in 1974, and correlates the explosive energy potential of the proposed terminal at some 10,000 to 15,000 tons of TNT, or about three quarters the explosive power of the Hiroshima atom bomb.

The report states that recent evidence demolished the assumption that detonations following leaks of liquefied petroleum gas were virtually impossible. Disasters at Lake Charles, in Louisiana, and Flixborough had involved comparatively small leaks yet were accompanied by extremely violent explosions affecting several square miles, followed in some cases by extensive fire storms.

WEST EUROPE

Hanoi believed seeking independence from power blocks

Vietnamese Premier in France to create new links with West

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 25

The French Government today welcomed Mr. Pham Van Dong, the Prime Minister of Vietnam, with the ceremonial and courtesies normally reserved for a head of state.

He is staying at the Hotel de Marigny, the Government guest-house, across the street from the Elysee, and will have no less than three private meetings with President Giscard d'Estaing and with M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, the first of which took place today.

His four-day official visit is the first to any Western country since the end of the Vietnam war. It is more than 30 years since Mr. Pham Van Dong last came to France for the abortive Fontainebleau conference, where he led the Vietnamese delegation and impressed French negotiators with his toughness and intransigence.

His revolutionary activity, which began in his early twenties, when he joined Ho Chi Minh in Canton, led to his being sentenced to six years at hard labour in the notorious Poulo Condore island penitentiary. But his hostility to colonialism was always combined, as in the case of other Vietnamese nationalists, with a lasting attachment to French culture and civilization and a recognition of the historic role of France in the Indo-Chinese peninsula.

Both France and Vietnam are now anxious to make a clean sweep of past conflict, errors and estrangements. President Giscard d'Estaing described Mr. Pham Van Dong's visit as the rediscovery of a century-old relationship. The Vietnamese Prime Minister clearly values this as the base for a diplomatic offensive towards West Europe and the United States.

His talks in France, he emphasized, would make it possible to put a full stop to all the unsettled problems of the past. Among these are the 3,000 French nationals of Vietnamese origin still living in Vietnam, and awaiting permission to leave; compensation for French firms operating in the country until the end of the war; and the status of French consular representation.

But far more important in the eyes of the Vietnamese is to start political cooperation to consolidate the independence of France and Vietnam from the blocks of the superpowers; and to increase French financial and economic assistance for the reconstruction of Vietnam.

They have plans for French participation in the development of offshore oil resources; for building a motor vehicle plant, managed by Renault; and installing steel and cement plants. French aid to Vietnam in the past three years has totalled 1,600m francs (now about £190m) or 33 per cent of total Western aid.

Other aspects of the price review which the British are prepared to accept are a general increase of 3.5 per cent in guaranteed minimum farm prices throughout the Community and a 3 per cent devaluation of the "green pound", the unit in which British farm prices are calculated.

The most unsatisfactory aspect from the British point of view is an immediate increase of 3.5 per cent in the milk price, which will undoubtedly lead to new butter and skimmed milk mountains. Britain has sought a complete price freeze to avoid surpluses.

Danish police break picket lines at press plant

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, April 25

The police broke through picket lines early today to allow vans to take the national daily *Berlingske Tidende* from the presses for distribution. It was the first time for almost three months that the 228-year-old newspaper had been published.

Later, other pickets blocked the entrances to a newspaper distribution company. Seamen employed by a ferry line said they would not allow copies to be taken on board their vessels to be transported to Jutland, because the newspaper had been prepared by non-union labour.

The dispute at *Berlingske Tidende*, which forced it to stop publication on January 30, led to a general sympathy strike by printing workers at most Danish newspapers on April 1. A compromise reached over the weekend is expected to be accepted by unions later today and allow all newspapers, except *Berlingske Tidende* to appear normally tomorrow.

Some of the newspapers, however, had already made arrangements to publish without the help of union employees and had dismissed printing staff. They said they were prepared to re-engage some but not all of their former staff. The printing unions have insisted that all the dismissed employees be reinstated.

Mr. Henning Fommark, editor of *Berlingske Tidende*, said today that the newspaper would continue to publish without union printers although consideration would have to be given to the serious threats made to some members of the staff. "We have to consider their safety," he said.

The Danish printing unions have arranged a rally in support of the *Berlingske* strikers tomorrow and predicted widespread sympathy strikes in Danish industry. The Danish TUC has stated that it does not support the plan or sympathy strikes and has advised union members to work normally.

Addressing the troops, President Eanes, who is also Chief of the Armed Forces, greeted them as the guardians of peace and democracy.

Earlier the ruling Council of the Revolution met in honour of the anniversary. It issued a statement that said democracy was now "in full operation" in Portugal, and that the people had their destiny in their own hands.

One voice was silent, however. Major Otelio Saraiwa de Carvalho, one of the chief strategists of the April 25 revolution, and later, as a general commander, as a security force Copcon, was forbidden to make any public statement.

He is suspended from duty pending inquiry into the probability of his conduct since the revolution. He stood against President Eanes in the presidential elections last year and came in second.

A cartoon in the evening newspaper *Diário de Lisboa* shows a photograph of the handsome major with his mouth gagged and bound. His followers announced that a "mourning session" would be held in his honour in Lisbon.

General Eanes and Dr. Mario Soares at the march-past.

among the crowd at the parade and there were few red carnations, the symbol of Portugal's bloodless revolution in 1974.

The crowd watching the parade was smaller and less noisy than the multitude that milled round the troops in the Avenida da Liberdade here on Liberation Day, April 25, however, is essentially a festival of civilians, with organized sports parties and entertainments all over the country with a special attention paid to children.

The celebrations began yesterday with fireworks displays from Lisbon's seven hills, folk dancing in the squares, and the opening of a photographic exhibition of the revolution in a city fair.

The Socialist Party called today "the festival of socialist fraternity", but there were few party signs or badges visible

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OVERSEAS

Foreign Office might grow in strength within home ministry

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Reports of the demise of the diplomatic service are premature. The Foreign Office is alive and well, though some of its senior members may be looking a bit green about the gills awaiting the Think Tank's report on its future.

This report, prepared by the Central Planning Review Staff, is now almost ready, it is understood, and will be handed to Dr. Owen, the Foreign Secretary, early next month. It is then expected to be published within a few weeks.

The main recommendation of the team, who have spent the past year or so investigating Britain's foreign representation, is believed to be controversial: to bring the Foreign Office into the home civil service.

The idea would be to form a new Department of Overseas Affairs, it is being suggested, comprising the present diplomatic service, the export side of the Department of Trade, and the Ministry of Overseas Development.

It has been assumed in the Foreign Office that the Think Tank was in some way gunning for it or trying to cut it down to size to suit Britain's needs in the modern world.

In one sense this may be so, but what some of the more nervous diplomats have overlooked is that a new Department of Overseas Affairs might well leave the Foreign Office—under another name—in an even stronger position.

At the same time, the proposals—if the final report confirms these advance hints—would pose a considerable challenge to the home civil service, which is in many respects resistant to the idea of "abroad". With one enlarged home service, staffing all ministries, many home civil servants would not only be expected to serve a tour of duty abroad as a matter of course, but would also have to re-equip—as in the European Community—that policy novices have an international dimension.

There are said to be several advantages to be gained from having an overseas department in a single home service. First, much duplication of efforts and services would be avoided. Secondly, the combining of administrative and technical expertise could well lead to more practical results. Thirdly, the aid and development effort, which though limited in scale represents an important aspect of Britain's involvement in the wider world, would be better coordinated.

Finally, the suspicion that the foreign service is a privileged elite, ill-founded as this might be, would be removed immediately. Overall there would be a greater streamlining of foreign affairs and perhaps an economy in expenditure.

And at the end of it all, even British traditionalism and the technical proficiency of the diplomatic service itself, who could say but that the Foreign Office would not emerge, phoenix-like, more resplendent than ever?

Diary, page 14

Ethiopia expels three Western journalists

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, April 25

The only three Western journalists based in Ethiopia—Mr. Jeremy Tovey, of Reuters, Mr. David Ottaway of the *Washington Post*, and M. Laurent Chénard of Agence France Presse—were today ordered to leave the country within 48 hours.

The Ethiopian Government accused them of sending distorted reports of events and particularly about the continuing revolution of the broad masses.

The expulsions came shortly after the orders closing all Western consulates in Asmara as well as four American institutions. The closure of these offices had received wide publicity, and the expulsion of the journalists was thought to be a sign of the annoyance of the Ethiopian authorities.

All three correspondents have been working under difficult conditions, and have been fully aware that their dispatches were being scrutinized closely. The Government also recently seized the "Voice of the Gospel" radio station, which had been run by a Lutheran organization in Addis Ababa.

The official announcement today accused the Western journalists of being the main source of "false, biased and totally biased dispatches" used in a propaganda campaign by the enemies of Ethiopia.

While the announcement made no direct reference to the rebellion in Eritrea, it was assumed that one of the main complaints against the three journalists was their reporting of the situation in that region, though they were in no position to report freely on the activities of secessionist guerrillas there.

The removal of the three gives the regime a virtual monopoly on the issue of information from Ethiopia. The anti-Government forces, however, use other channels to disseminate their statements, and these will not be affected.

Addis Ababa: Mr. Ottaway has worked from Addis Ababa for three years, but Mr. Tovey and M. Chénard arrived here less than a year ago.

The Ethiopian correspondents of Associated Press and Agence France Presse were not affected by today's announcement. AP's Athens Correspondent writes: An American Air Force C141 aircraft landed here today with 85 of the 300 United States nationals expelled from Ethiopia.

The first group of American evacuees was described by a spokesman as "mostly dependants who include children and one nine-month-old baby". They will stay temporarily in hotels here.

Tanzania counts the cost of E African split

Dar es Salaam, April 25.—President Nyerere of Tanzania said today the disintegration of the East African Community—grouping his country, Kenya and Uganda—was a matter for shame not for pride.

He said that many projects listed in Tanzania's five-year development plan would be postponed as a result of the rechanneling of resources because of the collapse of community institutions.

He told a special Constituent Assembly meeting that Tanzania had no alternative but to begin planning for the running of services provided by the collapsed institutions.

In law, all the East African corporations still exist. In practice, three of them no longer operate, and there is no certainty about the continuation of services to Tanzania by the other one," he stated.

Namanga, Kenya, April 25.—Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a Finnish television journalist, and her Kenyan cameraman were seized by Tanzanian officials at this checkpoint.

They were taken to a secret base, closed but "unique" and "unlikely to be repaired".

Revealing their destination today, Mr. James Kruger, the Minister of Justice, Police and Prisons, said that after allegations of bad conditions on Robben Island it had been decided to invite a group of journalists "to ascertain the true treatment circumstances of the prisoners incarcerated there". Amnesty International recently received allegations that prisoners on the island were attacked by police dogs earlier this year.

The conditions attached to the visit prohibit any interviews with prison inmates. All stories are subject to security clearance by the commission for prisons, and the news agencies have agreed "in the interest of objective and perspective reporting" to publish in full any comment the Commission of Prisons may wish to make on a particular story. None of the stories may be published until Wednesday.

Hijack attempt by armed Polish soldier

Nuremberg, April 25.—An armed Polish soldier tried to hijack a Polish passenger aircraft at Cracow airport, but was overpowered by paratroopers disguised as mechanics.

The eyewitness said here that the soldier took a Polish civilian hostage at gun point in the airport terminal and, when the alarm was raised, to follow instructions, the soldier fired fire with his machinegun, hitting him in the leg.

The soldier then stormed a Tupolev Tu134 aircraft of the Polish state airline waiting on the runway, held two stewardesses hostage, and demanded to be flown to Africa. After nearly three hours, he was seized by the paratroopers.—Reuters.

20 islanders missing

Sydney, April 25.—At least 20 people are still missing in the British Solomon Islands after last week's series of earthquakes in which 12 people are known to have died.

Reporters on secret tour of Robben Island prison

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, April 25

In conditions of secrecy, a small group of foreign and South African journalists was taken today on a visit to Robben Island, the maximum security prison off the coast of Cape Town.

The prison, which holds some of South Africa's leading political prisoners, including Mr. Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress, has rarely been visited by reporters.

Before setting out on today's expedition the journalists had to accept a number of conditions, including the submission of their reports for "security" censorship before publication.

The five foreign journalists in the party were from the five news agencies that have offices in South Africa. No other foreign journalist was invited and photographers were barred.

Last week's Ministry of Information asked the news agencies concerned to nominate a reporter to take part in "an

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE

PARLIAMENTARY COMMON OWNERSHIP ACT 1976.

WITH THE PROVISION OF AN INITIAL £400,000 FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC MEETING, 30th APRIL, 1977, 2 p.m. FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1

In the Chair: MR. BOB EDWARDS, M.P.

Speaker: Dr. E. F. SCHUMACHER, C.B.E.

The distinguished author of the best-seller "SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL" has written a new book entitled "A GUIDE FOR THE PERPLEXED" (Jonathan Cape) which will be on sale on the bookstalls in September.

His address will deal with the topical subjects:

OWNERSHIP and PARTICIPATION

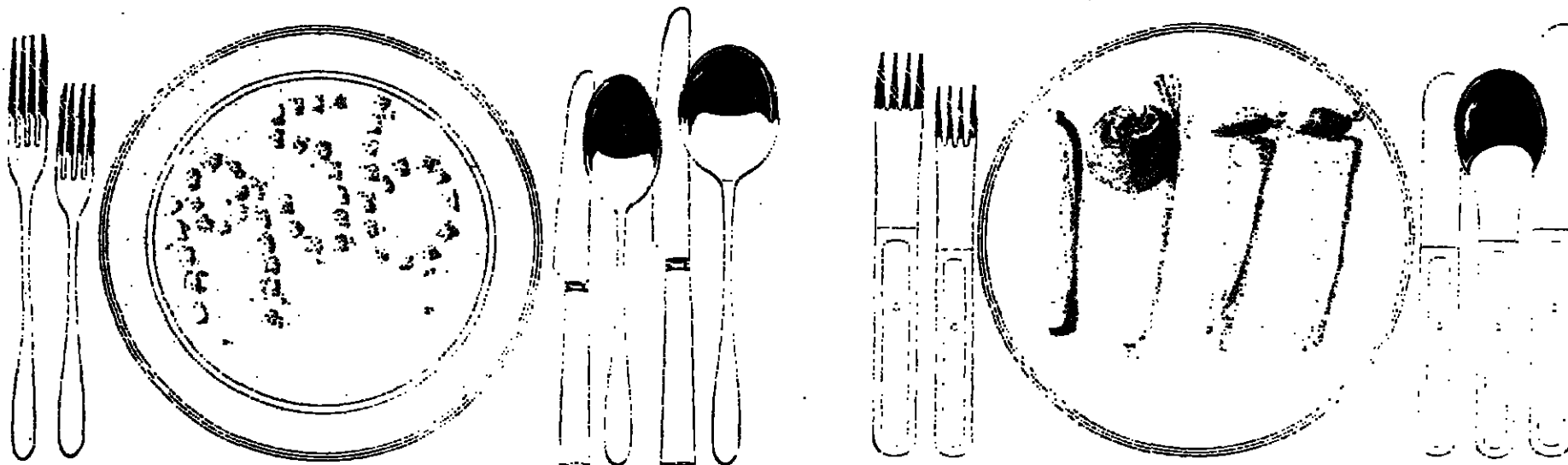
In industry, in all their perplexing implications.

Entrance: 50p at the door. Organizers: I.C.O.M., 31 Hare-Street, London, S.E.18. Telephone 01-855 4099

Advertisement paid for by Ernest Bader

INVESTMENT IN DESIGN

The Design Centre, shop window for the Design Council, was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on April 26, 1956. This Special Report, which marks the twenty-first anniversary of that occasion, looks at this year's Design Awards—announced today—and examines the contribution of design to Britain's industrial performance



These two sets of cutlery, designed by David Mellor of Sheffield, underline a paradox that lies at the heart of good design: tastes change, but "taste"—that elusive quality—endures. The set on the right, Chinese ivory (it also comes in black), was launched at the end of 1975 and has won one of this year's eight Design Awards for consumer and contract goods. The other set, Pride, won an equivalent award in 1957—the year that the then Council of Industrial Design launched its annual scheme. The design of each set can easily be dated. Pride is an elegant, spindly product of the mid-1950s, styled when memories of the Skylon were fresh in the public

mind; the snug, squat shapes of Chinese ivory are equally attuned to the tougher spirit of today's architecture—they would look splendid, for instance, in one of the restaurants at the National Theatre. Similar contrasts may be drawn in relation to their manufacture. The silver-plated nickel used for Pride is coined and forged, while the knife handles are made of white xylonite; the broad, flat blades of Chinese ivory are cut out from sheet steel—"like a reel of Sellotape", Mr Mellor says—and the handles are moulded in acetal resin. Prices and weight may reflect something of the difference: Pride costs

more than Chinese ivory (£25.60 for eight pieces, as against £19.52) and weighs less (360 grams as against 540). More than 4,000 six-piece settings of Chinese ivory have been sold since the range was launched 18 months ago. Pride was relaunched only at the beginning of this year, "but already the response has been overwhelming", its designer says. "Some people, seeing it for the first time, liked it for itself, others recognized an old friend. It all goes to prove, I suppose, that you can't keep a good design down." Both sets are available from David Mellor at 4 Sloane Square, London SW1, or 1 Park Lane, Sheffield.

by James Pilditch

"I am in a rut and I like it. Ruts are so comfortable." That was said about the Council of Industrial Design by a girl who worked there. Not yesterday. In 1957.

If that sounds critical of what is now the Design Council, which this year celebrates the twenty-first anniversary of its Design Centre, it is meant, on the whole, to be the reverse.

"It is there", a journalist said recently, "that the response has been overwhelming". His one implied it always has been. Because in Britain you probably have to be venerable to be respected, the Design Council's air of solid permanence may be counted a triumph.

Established in 1944 by the President of the Board of Trade to "promote by all practicable means the improvement of design in the products of British industry", the Design Council today enjoys a stature, weight and competence

parallel to the world. While the work of the Duke of Edinburgh, Lord Snowdon (often behind the scenes) and others has undoubtedly been a brilliant influence, the sustained achievement of the whole staff and directors—present and past—deserves to be honoured.

Today the Design Council spends £3m a year (almost 40 per cent of which it generates itself) on a span of activity that is hard to describe. It runs the Design Centre in the Haymarket, an office in Cardiff and the Scottish Design Centre in Glasgow. It publishes magazines and books; it tries hard to improve design education (to which it attaches great importance) and helps firms to find designers.

It keeps an index of what it considers well-designed products, runs courses and conferences (23 last year on topics ranging from flame retardancy to farm buildings), administers scholarships, helps craftsmen, stages exhibitions both abroad and at home in subjects as diverse as "Things to buy from Wales" and "design for a Mississippi riverboat to corrosion and terotechnology, whatever that may be. The council helps British firms to export, has advisory committees in various industries and collaborates with dozens of other organizations.

Design Council awards are well known. Less known, though of immense potential, is the down-to-earth work of engineering field officers. They are qualified engineers who visit firms, diagnose problems and recommend improvements.

At the Design Centre you can buy a jubilee souvenir, choose a rug or refrigerator, and learn, if you wish, how Layland controls quality. And there is more.

If you fancy the Design Council is trying to do too much, spreading the budget too thin, blame the brief. By all practicable means, it said.

How effective has it all been? On this anniversary, a new director is about to take office, the question is timely. More than half a million people visited the Design Centre last year. A university chair in design management has been established (the world's first) at the Royal College of Art, and London is now seen, by those who know, as the design capital of Europe.

The achievement is great. But is it complete? To answer that, go into almost any factory or department store. In neither do people enjoy a fraction of the quality, comfort, convenience, taste or harmony which modern technology, shaped by design, can offer.

The Design Council's task has scarcely begun. This year marks a new beginning. Should the council continue or alter its work?

Council's activity is vast in scope

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It must look good and work well

by Kenneth Owen

Belatedly, there are signs of official recognition that design is important to national industrial performance. Belatedly, people are objecting to the "dude-style consumption" products that contribute only to meeting contrived needs. Belatedly, designers are learning how to be less prodigal with materials, energy and other resources.

These changes in attitudes and constraints are affecting investment in design at various levels. For governments, manufacturers and individuals, they are posing new questions of what should be designed, and how those designs should be carried out.

Design is basic to our industrial performance and we had better get it right. There are indications that British designers are good but that their efforts are not being harnessed as effectively as they might be.

It should not really be

necessary in 1977 to emphasize that design is not just a cosmetic exercise; that designers are not merely pastrycooks who simply add icing to the cake.

The person who buys a product is entitled to expect that it will do what it should do, safely and reliably, for an appropriate length of time. It should look good, be as simple as possible to maintain and, if it is a machine, its ergonomics should be right—that is, it should in the widest sense fit the person using it. It should not depend upon technical or visual gimmickry.

On the other side of the fence, the manufacturer wants a product that can be produced in appropriate numbers at a reasonable cost. Its production must be economical in materials and energy, and as much as possible of its material content should be capable of being recycled for further use. Above all, he wants a product that will sell successfully on the market.

The designer is the man or woman who tries to satisfy all these requirements. In most cases, it is not an individual, but a team that is responsible for

the design of a product, with various specialists covering a spectrum of design skills. Compared with some other countries, it has been suggested, good individual British designers are less good at working together in teams.

Thus the design defines the product and, essentially, determines its success in the marketplace. Other factors clearly can affect market success or failure, particularly in a negative way, but there is a direct relationship between sound design and market success. And, conversely, market success is the criterion by which design effectiveness is judged.

This, says Lord Caldecote, chairman of Delta Metal and chairman of the Design Council since 1972, is the basic reason for the importance of design to the national economy. For the country as for individual companies, improved economic performance depends on improved effectiveness in design.

The British Government's conversion to this view (though presented as a long-established article of faith) was detailed recently by the Prime Minister. Addressing

the Society of Industrial Artists and Designers, Mr Callaghan said: "Unless the design of British products is right, we will never compete successfully either at home or abroad with the foreign competition."

There must therefore be increased emphasis on good design if we are going to regenerate British industry and stop the relative decline in our industrial performance which has lasted for over 30 years. That is the way to restore prosperity to this country.

In outlining an industrial strategy, Mr Callaghan said, the Government had become increasingly conscious of the importance of industrial design. Some 40 working parties, with representatives from management, unions and government, had been established.

As part of the Government's contribution to the industrial strategy, we have made available substantial sums of money through the industry schemes and many of these have had significant product development sectors. "A considerable proportion of the £75m allocated to machine tools, textile machinery, printing machinery and electronic components is already available for product design."

But we are not satisfied with this and are now actively considering a wider scheme for expanding support for new product design and development over a much wider area of manufacturing industry.

One arm of the Government's industrial strategy is that provided by the National Enterprise Board, which invests in selected companies in various sectors of industry. Lord Ryder, NEB chairman, recently added his thoughts on the significance of design.

"Good design is of key importance to the future of British industry, and therefore to the long-term economic performance of the nation," he said, "because in the final analysis design is the critical factor that determines whether our customers at home and abroad will choose to buy British goods."

"All those elements in a product which will make it more competitive in world markets are largely determined by designers—their concept, performance, safety in use, appearance, price and not least, whether or not it can be produced efficiently and thus contribute to better productivity."

Lord Ryder made many excellent products, Lord Ryder said, but we did not produce enough of them and in some cases we did not make them fast enough. Our productivity was still too low, which was one of the reasons why we needed to step up our investment in new plant and equipment.

But faster and more efficient production would not regenerate British industry if it were not accompanied by investment to ensure the highest standards of design.

Ensuring the highest standards of design on a national scale is the aim of the Design Council, which in recent years has paid increasing attention to engineering design. Previously, its main

thrust had concerned industrial design in the sense that that term is taken to mean primarily the aesthetic and ergonomic aspects of design.

Lord Caldecote emphasizes that design covers a wide spectrum of activities, with aesthetics and ergonomics merging into the many other elements which together determine the performance of the product.

Industry has to be more efficient in design today simply because the marketplace is more competitive than it was only a few years ago. Previously a company could afford a few losers among its attempted new products; now there is much less room for error.

The penalty for failure is high, Lord Caldecote notes. A failed design and development programme is "the most useless thing in the world" because one is left with nothing at the end.

"If you buy the wrong machine tool you can at least sell it secondhand to somebody. But if you spend a million pounds on a design and development programme and you have misjudged the market, or the development goes wrong, you've got nothing."

This is why, as the Prime Minister remarked, investment in new products is of paramount importance. "In our view in the Design Council," says Lord Caldecote, "it is of more importance, usually, than investment in new plant."

Investment in new products is risk money and, though Mr Callaghan's promise of expanding government support for new product design is welcome, Lord Caldecote is a forceful advocate of letting companies retain enough profits to be able to risk their own money in backing their own new-product judgment.

Achieving the right balance of design skills in the people who will design and develop the new

products will be difficult also. Traditionally the educational ladder for industrial designers has been more clearly defined than for engineering designers; there is a need to bring the two sides more closely together.

A proposed joint MSc course involving both Imperial College of Science and Technology and the Royal College of Art is one of several moves in this direction.

Among the many requirements for success in design, Lord Caldecote includes an innovative approach to new products (attitudes vary enormously between different industries and companies); the ability of specialists to work well together and for the overall design process to be managed; and a recognition by the chief executive of the company of the corporate importance of design.

Teamwork that enables specialists to merge their efforts in a multidisciplinary approach is of paramount importance. That has always been true for complex products; now the designers are faced with an increasing number of constraints.

Some of these were discussed at a recent London conference organized by the Institution of Engineering Designers. They include economy in the use of materials and energy, economy in use, better (and defined) maintainability, and the reuse of materials through recycling.

Design for planned obsolescence, one speaker suggested, was no longer a valid concept. Overall, designers needed to be aware of factors other than technology—they needed a "socio-economic brief" as well as a technical specification.

The Design Council is aware that Britain has major design resources which, in general, are grossly underused. As in other areas, the design skills of some British individuals and organizations are being recognized overseas; at PA Management Consultants Technology and Science Centre near Cambridge, for example, about 90 per cent of the centre's work, almost entirely new product design and development, is for overseas clients.

Under the auspices of the National Economic Development Office, most of the working groups examining strategy for various sectors of industry have concluded, as Mr Callaghan noted, that good design is good for business. The key question is how to move from these sectoral conclusions to a national improvement in design.

The Design Council is now discussing with NEDO ways in which the design and development of new products can be strengthened in the context of national economic industrial planning. Among the suggestions being considered is a design audit scheme under which the council might assess and monitor the design ability and performance of any company seeking or receiving financial support from the Government.

The author is Technology Correspondent, The Times.

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A tradition of fine design

Josiah Wedgwood created Queen's Ware in 1765 and changed the history of tableware in doing so. His designs had a sophistication which wouldn't be out of keeping in 1977—and a durability unheard of at the time.

In 1767 he designed a simple, elegant coffee cup and saucer in Black Basalt which you can see in the Design Centre today.

During its long history, Wedgwood has collaborated with the leading artists of the day—from George Stubbs and John Flaxman in the 18th Century to Susie Cooper, RDI, Richard Guyatt, FSAI,

Eduardo Paolozzi and David Gentleman, RDI, today.

Wedgwood was an original supporter of the Council and was, in fact, the first ceramic company ever to win a coveted Design Award. Some of the Wedgwood products currently on the Design Index are shown here.

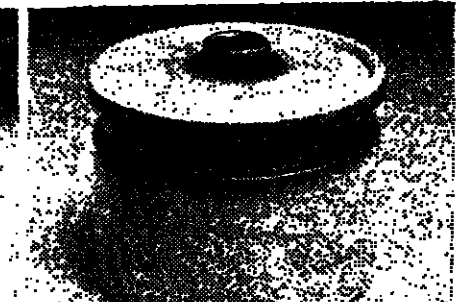
Evidence of the Wedgwood view that, although Time may affect fashion, good design is timeless.

Wedgwood

Barlston, Stoke-on-Trent



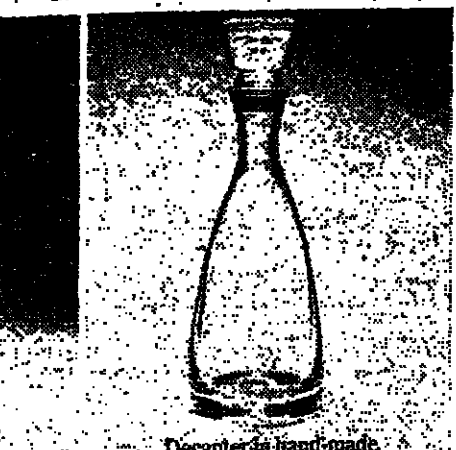
Silver Jubilee Mug in Queen's Ware, designed by Richard Guyatt, FSAI.



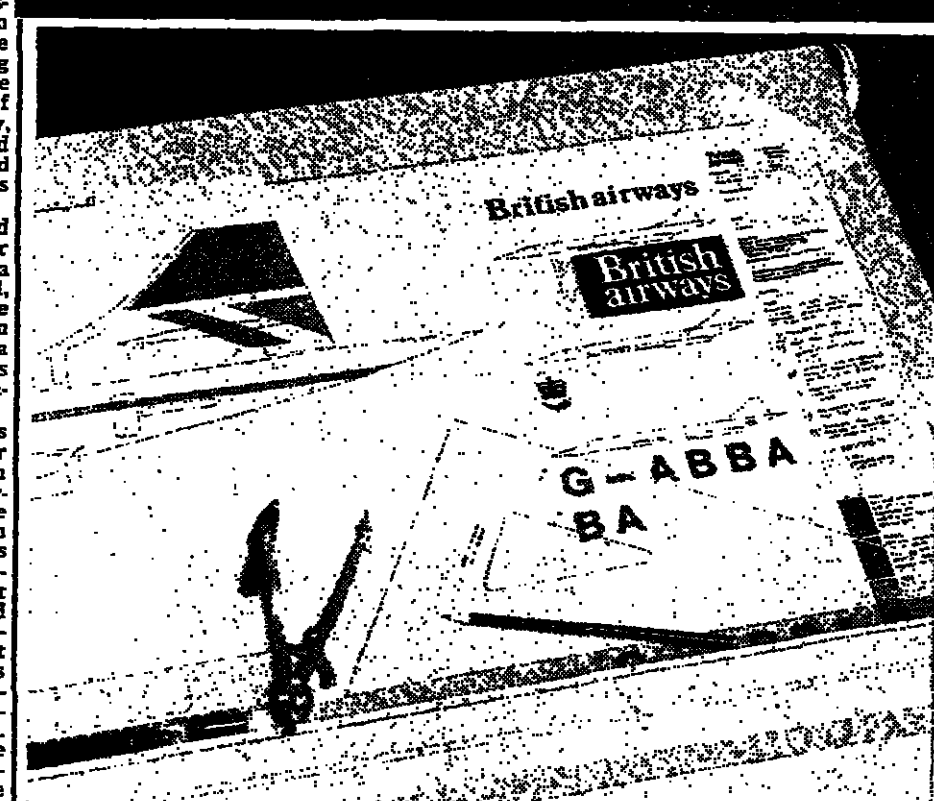
Blue Pacific Oven-to-tableware Casserole.



Pink Bone China Plate in Corn Poppy design, Peter Rabbit Nursery ware mug.



Decanter and hand-made Wedgwood glass.



British Airways take good design a long way

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British Airways

We'll take more care of you.

Europe's Car of the Year is fitted with the safest windscreen we've ever made.

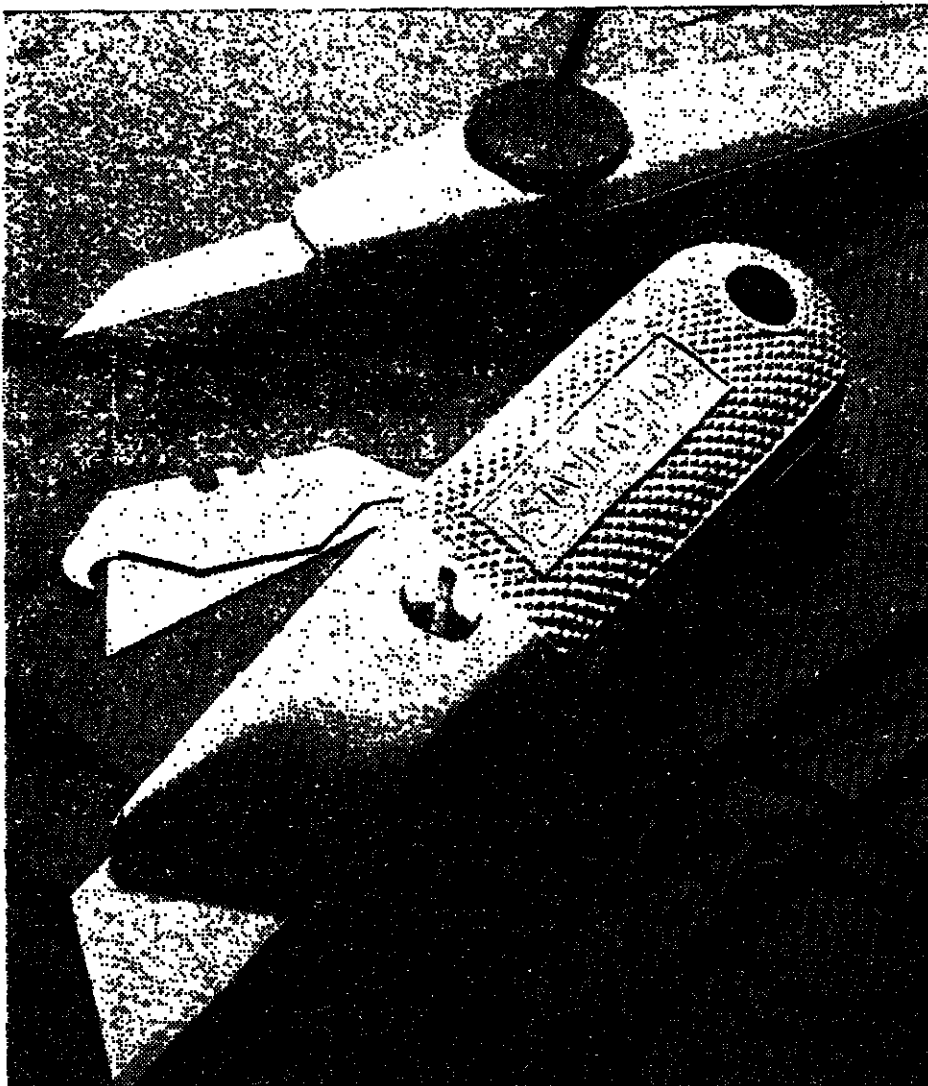
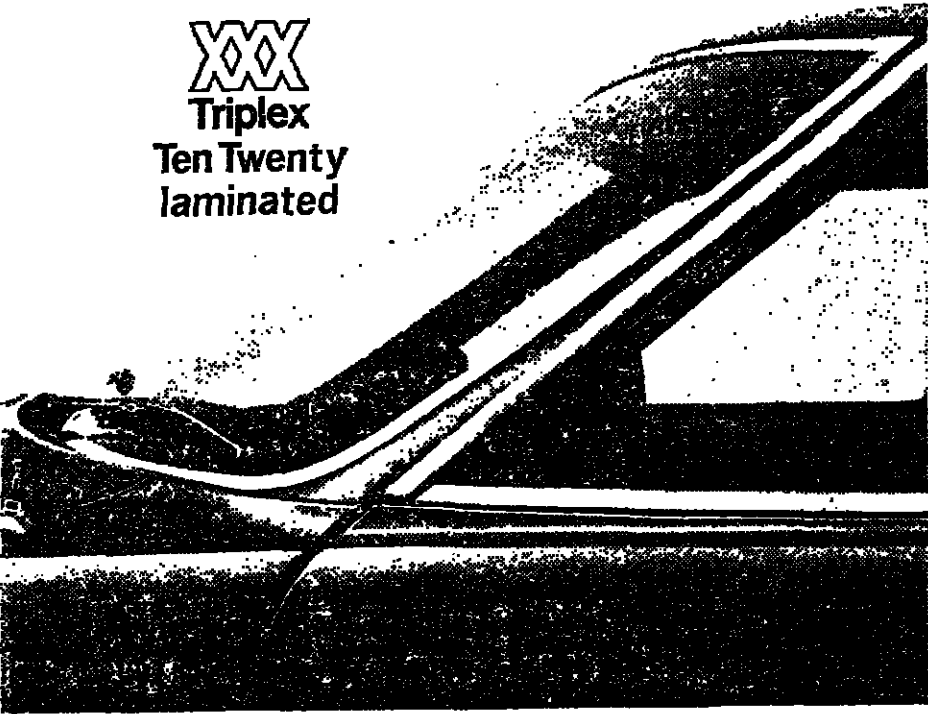
And that's no accident.

The new Rover 3500 from Leyland Cars has been voted 1977's Car of the Year by a panel of 49 experts from 15 countries.

One possible reason is that the new Rover is currently the only volume production car to carry a Triplex Ten Twenty safety laminated windscreen as standard specification. Ten Twenty virtually eliminates severe cuts to the face and severe injuries to the eyes in the event of head contact with the screen in an accident.

Europe's Car of the Year is first with Ten Twenty — others will follow in 1977.

XX
Triplex
Ten Twenty
laminated



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THAT WE CARVED OUR REPUTATION
FOR GREAT DESIGN.

STANLEY

Over 100 Stanley Tools in Design Centre Index.

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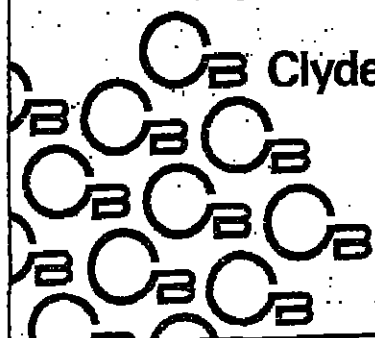
Progressive management knows the value of good design. Clydesdale Bank, the first Bank in Britain to introduce a corporate identity programme, achieved international acclaim by winning the Royal Society of Arts award for Design Management in 1967.

As a partner in pioneering the use of design for the future the Clydesdale Bank adds its congratulations to the Design Centre on its 21st Anniversary.

Clydesdale Bank Limited
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Clydesdale Bank Limited



Sir Paul Reilly (left in the picture); director of the Design Council since 1960, will hand over next June to Mr Keith Grant, secretary of the Royal Society of Arts (right): profiles by José Manser, picture by Robin Laurance

Amiable and avuncular politician

Sir Paul Reilly has been fortunate enough to spend most of his life doing a job he finds so interesting it hardly seems like work. Son of Professor Sir Charles Reilly, the architect, his interest in design and architecture was already firmly established by the time he went up to Oxford to read politics, philosophy and economics in 1930, but despite—or perhaps because of—his respect for his father he never considered becoming a practitioner of either profession.

Instead, after a course in business administration at the London School of Economics, a short period in industry with a plywood manufacturer, culminating in a stint as a salesman (an experience he claims to have found invaluable) and one or two entrepreneurial ventures, he opted in 1935 for journalism.

The *News Chronicle*, under its editor Gerald Barry, was a newspaper which showed an enlightened interest in what we now call "the environment". What better niche for him? He progressed from assistant leader page editor to features editor, making the work of architecture and design correspondent in his eager stride and would, he says, certainly have returned to the newspaper after war service had not the shortage of newspaper editors precluded any possibility of feature pages for some time to come.

He was sent to the United States to study the plastics industry so he could start up a plastics magazine for a British publisher. He asked his employers for a Christmas trip home about a Cunarder, first class, and he found himself seated next to Sir Gordon Russell in the dining saloon—confirming the widely-held belief that, for business reasons, it is sensible to travel first class.

Some months later Sir Gordon invited him to become chief information officer at the new Council of Industrial Design. He joined the CoID in April, 1948, and the pattern of his work and interest was set.

Sir Paul is a gregarious and articulate man who has thrown all his considerable energies into fighting for the cause of good design which he holds dear. He declined the political career his father would have liked for him. Nevertheless, in the non-party sense, he is an accomplished and professional politician who in his amiable and avuncular way has kept the Design Council, as it is now called, on a steady (though not always easy) path from the time he became director in 1960.

He has played the right cards, lobbied the right people and travelled the world in the furtherance of his beliefs. Design for him encompasses everything from crafts to heavy engineering products. He was not only an early advocate of the setting up of a council for engineering design, but also fought rigorously for that council to become part of the existing CoID

rather than a separate entity.

Figures in industry, government and design from all over the world know and respect Sir Paul. He has promoted British design, given endless words of advice on the setting up of foreign design centres, and spoken at innumerable functions—"the one thing I've hated. When I first spoke at the Oxford Union I dried up completely, and I'm still in agony at the prospect of making a speech after all these years", he says.

For the future, he has been invited to write two books; he is to be design adviser to the chairman of one of Britain's largest manufacturing companies and to be on the board of a design group. He is also a Royal Fine Arts Commissioner, is on the Council of the Royal College of Art—and much else besides. "As long as I can work, and afford to keep my home within walking distance of the Victoria and Albert Museum I shall be happy."

Tough, healthy streak of ambition

When Keith Grant left Cambridge in 1958 with a degree in modern languages, he wanted to be an export salesman. His enthusiasm was thwarted. Several large manufacturing companies offered jobs but none would guarantee eventual transfer to the export side. He went into advertising instead and became an account executive at Crawfords where, under the influence of its creative director, Ashley Havinden,

his eyes were first opened to the importance of design.

Five years later, at 28, he became general manager of the Royal Opera Company and the English Opera Group, a job which engaged all his tact and patience, as well as his love of the theatre and music and which, because he commissioned and worked with theatre designers, strengthened his design awareness. The years in the opera world brought contact with many people and much travel, and during this time Mr Grant married a South African, Deanne Bassman, a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet.

With his fortieth birthday looming, Mr Grant, whose charm, humour and lack of cynicism do not conceal a tough and healthy streak of ambition, felt the need to move "before I got irrevocably stuck in this one job for life". Appointed secretary of the Royal Society of Arts, he assumed himself settled for years. He much enjoyed organizing and hosting its many functions, running the bursaries scheme which is such a success, and growing link between industry and the design schools, initiating schemes for employing endowments and acting as impresario (his word) for other people's ideas as well as his own.

He was thrown off course only momentarily when, after three years, he was invited to apply for the post of director of the Design Council. The RSA links with the Design Council were close and historic, and it was the one job whose broad scope was exciting enough to tempt him.

The council needed someone with contacts in industry, education and the arts, someone with administrative experience and an agreeable personality.

Advisory service finds the right experts

by Kenneth Owen

"It is curious that sub-contracting manufacture has the aura of astute business practice, but sub-contracting design sounds vaguely disreputable." This point was made two years ago by Mr Geoffrey Constable, head of engineering design at the Design Council, discussing the council's then newly formed engineering field officer service.

Two years later, disreputable or not, the sub-contracting of design has become more accepted as a way of industrial life. Some of the credit for this must go to the council's field officers, whose efforts are now focused in a formal Design Advisory Service for which companies pay a basic £100 a year.

When the council began to develop its engineering design services, as an addition to its already well-established services in industrial design, Mr Constable detected a recurring pattern in which outside assistance was appropriate.

First, a new technology (where the client's comment might be: "But my designers said they had the necessary experience").

Second, the second opinion ("The predictions of my design team are usually right, but this time we cannot afford to be wrong").

Third, the disaster ("We have installed 1,000 machines overseas and none of them works properly").

Fourth, rapid expansion ("We have got to get into the market, while it is there").

In each case the use of outside skill or sub-contracted design effort could help, provided the companies concerned had honestly identified their problems and knew where to go for help.

This was the starting point

for the council's effort to improve the standard of engineering design in industry. Help companies to identify their real problems (which are not always the apparent ones) and to suggest sources of skill which could be tapped to assist in their solution. As well as the more dramatic examples quoted, there are the more routine snags of everyday product development.

The regionally based field officers are concerned with exposing companies to design problems and recommending appropriate specialists. Normally they would not offer professional advice themselves, unless the problem lay in their own area of knowledge.

One of the resources to which they have access is the council's Record of Engineering Design Expertise. This is a list, maintained at the council's headquarters in London, of available sources of knowledge—universities, polytechnics, research associations, research establishments, practising consultants (including recently retired design engineers) and companies.

More than 70 subject areas are covered in the record, extending from acoustics to welding, and including aerodynamics, chemical engineering, corrosion, energy conversion, fluidics, heat transfer, mechanical handling, structural engineering and microprocessor applications.

During 1975, the last full year in which the service operated on its free, national basis, the field officers visited more than 900 companies. Over 300 requested design assistance, and almost 400 experts or sources of knowledge were recommended. About 200 companies went on to apply the advice offered.

The fact that only a third of the companies contacted requested assistance, Mr Constable says, indicates the continued reluctance of engineering designers to con-

sider using outside experience. That the number of recommended sources was greater than the number of problems, he adds, confirms that sources of appropriate knowledge are not difficult to locate. "Experience has shown that there are few engineering problems that require fundamental research", he says.

Last September the council announced a new subscription-based version of its design advisory service. For an annual fee of £100, and value-added tax, companies are entitled to a range of services which includes visits by field officers, access to the council's records of engineering technology and industrial design knowledge, design scrutinies of products (critical appraisals by a team of experts) at cost, and extended searches for sources of components.

Non-member companies can pay on an ad hoc basis for these services. Typically, these charges would be £50 and VAT for diagnosis and referral of a design problem; £20 and VAT for a straightforward recommendation of sources of knowledge; and cost and £100 for a design scrutiny.

With its present staff resources the Design Council could handle about 200 member companies in its design advisory service. In just over six months since the scheme was launched, more than 80 firms have joined. In size and products they represent a fair cross-section of British industry—they include Bursdegs, Electronics, Cadbury Typhoo, Chubb Fire Security, Crossfield Electronics, ICI Mond Division, Nuclear Enterprises, Pitney Bowes and Veeder-Root.

Many well-known large corporations, as well as many small firms, have already benefited from the advisory service. "We are not about to transform industry", Geoffrey Constable says, "But it is setting a trend."



Most important, they

needed someone whose experience and temperament ensured he would instinctively give engineering and industrial design equal weight and importance, for a bias in either direction could destroy the delicate equilibrium which had been so carefully nurtured. Mr Grant fulfilled all these needs; he

was persuaded to apply and got the job.

Until he has taken over he is redoubt about future plans except to point out that his youthful passion for selling overseas is undiminished. The design of goods, from heavy industrial machinery to saucepans, is vital and he believes that British specifications, based on home requirements are often too low.

By unremitting fieldwork the Design Council strives to raise standards, and he aims to accelerate the pace. His first months in the job will be spent in strengthening and expanding his personal links with industrial companies.

It will be difficult to replace Sir Paul Reilly, but Keith Grant looks a likely candidate to succeed.



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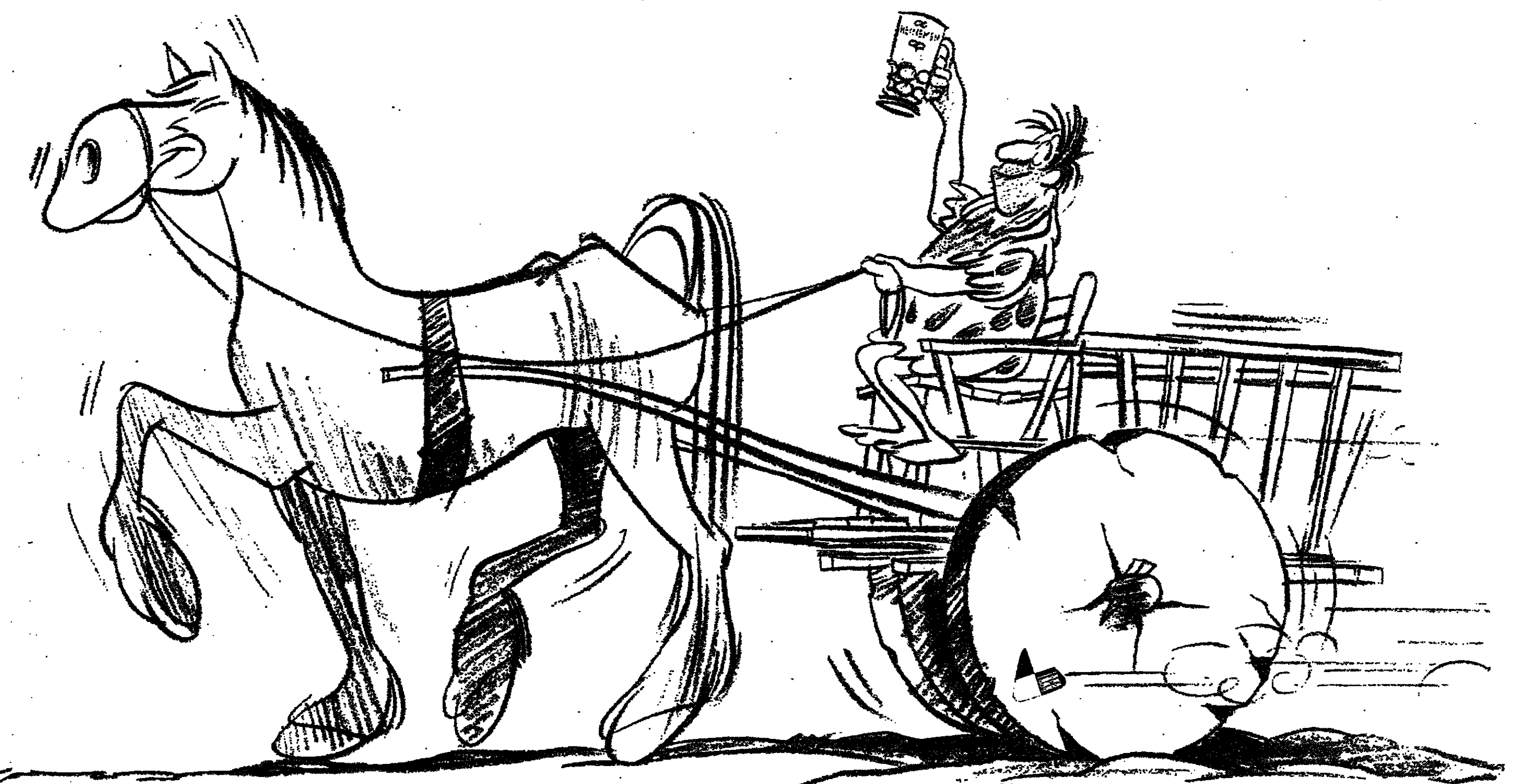
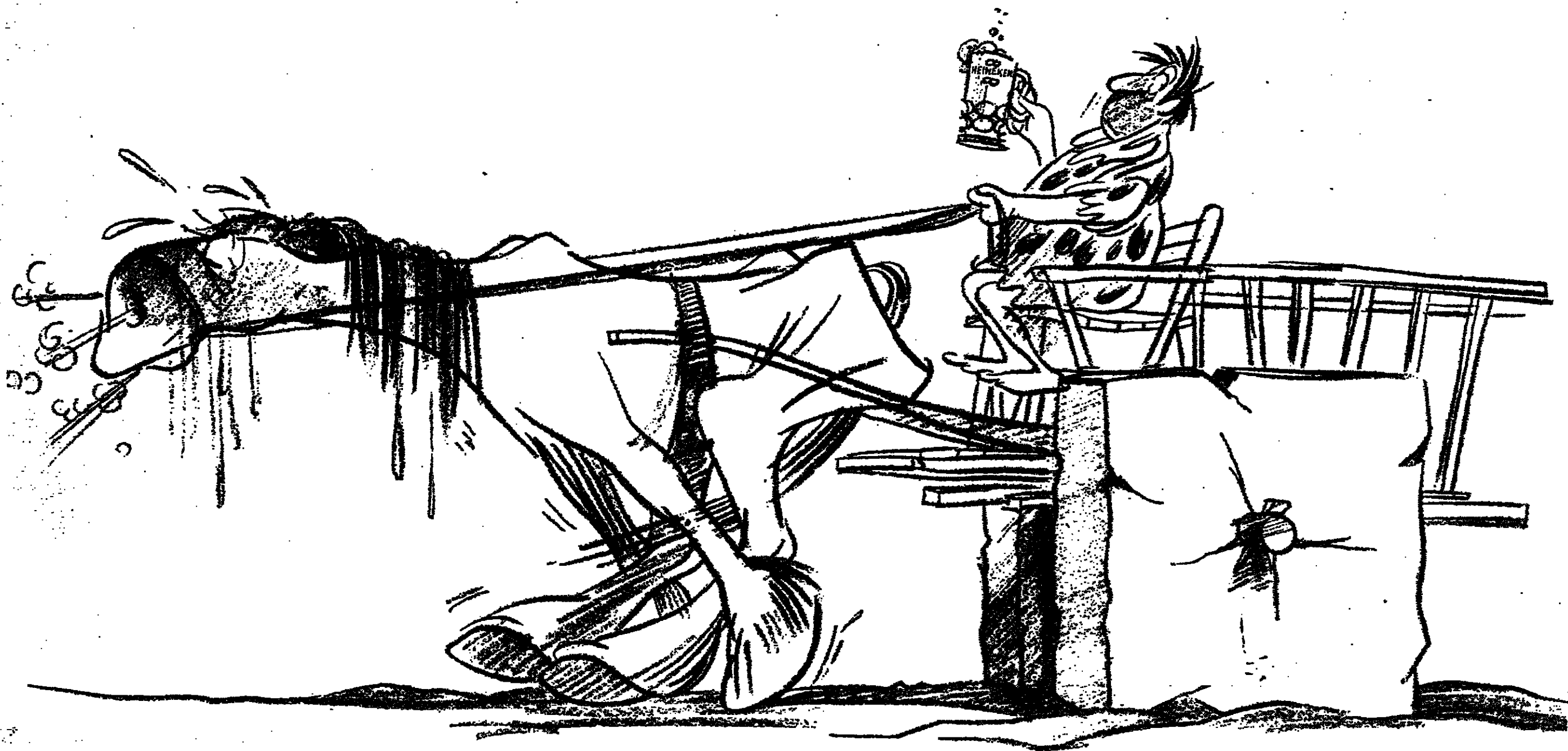
Ghana, Venice, Banking, Timber, Conferences, Buses, Milan, Pensions, Burnley, Bond Street, Quebec, Senegal, Health, Aluminium, Brazil, Scotland, Nigeria, Swimming Pools, Thanet, Films, Water Resources, Bloodstock, Travel, Posidonia, Antiques, Mexico, World Population, Paris, Coffee, Hong Kong, Invisibles, Gold, Air Conditioning, Oman, World Wildlife, Sugar, Tunisia, Watches, Oil, Maryland, Cocoa, France, Gibraltar, Commercial Vehicles, Thamesdown, Property, Beirut, Sweden, New Covent Garden, Christmas Books, Sheffield, China, Morocco, Farnborough, Bahrain, Brighton, Cowes Week, Singapore, Summer Drinking, Human Rights, Energy, Credit, Bolton, India, Calculators, Rushmoor, Venezuela, West Norfolk, Radio, Cars, Estate Management, Malta, Insurance, Word Processing, Madrid, Japan, Finland, Copper, Algeria, Wall St, Industrial Heating, Iran, Aerospace Electronics, Derbyshire...

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Refreshes the parts other
beers cannot reach.

WIN

market

Reports

History teaches value of awareness

by Clive Ashwin

There are two principal routes to qualifying as a professional designer in Britain today. The first is to follow one of the many courses in industrial design run by colleges of art and design and by design departments in polytechnics. The generic term industrial design denotes professional activities which are concerned with shaping and decorating products made for the private consumer, such as textiles, graphics, furniture and domestic ceramics.

The second route to professional qualification is a course in one of the branches of engineering design, such as civil, aeronautical or electrical engineering, at one of the universities or polytechnic departments. While the industrial designer is predominantly concerned with developing known technologies in a functionally efficient and aesthetically attractive manner, the engineering designer is more likely to be looking for technological innovations which will yield greater efficiency and increased economy.

This definition is a simplistic one but when one turns to the institutional structure responsible for educating designers it is remark-

able to what a high degree the ideological dichotomy is reflected in a rigid segregation of courses.

When, in 1837, Parliament made a grant for the foundation of a school of design in London, industrial design became the first subject in the history of British education to attract specific funding. The founding fathers of the system felt more confident about our international lead in heavy engineering, such as railways, shipping and factory machinery, than they did about our competence in consumer design.

In those early days, great emphasis was laid upon the design of textiles (critically vulnerable to foreign competition), ceramics and furnishings. Since that time industrial design has remained embedded firmly within the state-funded public sector of education and, with few notable exceptions, hardly penetrated the universities.

Engineering design, on the other hand, is dominated by the universities, with Imperial College, Bath and Loughborough coming high in the order of prestige. The nearest thing to a union between the two spheres of design activity occurs in the polytechnics, which often embrace both areas although, regrettably, normally in separate faculties.

The historic segregation

of industrial from engineering design has been seen as one of the most pernicious features of British education, parodied as breeding on the one hand innumerate and illiterate aesthetes in pursuit of "taste" and, on the other, hard-headed experts with no imagination to predict or control the often catastrophic consequences of their misplaced ingenuity.

The GLC's recent turnabout on tower blocks, the Government's reversal of New Town policy and the fierce resistance to nuclear power schemes all serve to reinforce the popular view of a discredited generation of designers and architects. Back-to-nature movements of the past decade manifest not only general disenchantment with industrial society, but a specific revulsion for the 1960s surfeit of Concorde, concrete, computers and congestion.

At the end of the war industrial design education was given a new look, a new qualification—the National Diploma in Design—and a new course structure based on the contributory disciplines of fine art and craft. The Coldstream report of 1960 proposed among other things the elevation of the best of the NDD courses to a degree-status diploma (the diploma in art and design) and its proposals were put into effect during the early 1960s.

Coldstream also gave courses a much higher degree of autonomy, seized by a number of design educationists as a golden opportunity to escape the historic and detested tutelage of fine art. On some of these courses (recently converted to BA degrees of the Council for National Academic Awards) the fine art element prescribed by Coldstream has dwindled to a mere genuflection, or disappeared altogether.

Craft suffered a similar fate. If, it was asked, the professional designer spends most of his time designing for machine production, what is the virtue in cultivating the manual dexterity demanded by crafts? The situation varies from subject to subject, but one must not be surprised to find a degree level course in graphic design in which the students are required to do little drawing, no fine art and no autographic print-making.

The danger of such a regime and the philosophy behind it is that the designer is prone to degenerate into an ideas man whose personal skills extend no farther than photomontage and adhesive lettering, and who is increasingly dependent upon the hands of others to realise his intentions for him.

Indeed, recent sporadic attempts to breed a species of so-called "design tech-

nician"—a rude mechanic of the design process—are evidence of a tendency to pernicious elitism in the chain of command. Nowhere are the consequences of this policy more clearly demonstrated than in the grievous decline in the quality of drawing since the early 1960s.

If there is one truth to be distilled from the history of design, it is that good design has never prospered except under the direction of designers who understood the full sensory consequences of their products—how they will look, feel, sound, smell and taste to the consumer. This kind of awareness (which was, incidentally, the original definition of "aesthetic" judgment) cannot be bought cheaply, and is only acquired at all by direct and continuing interaction with physical materials, traditionally achieved in the practice of crafts and fine art.

The waning of crafts during the 1960s left an ideological vacuum which was partly filled by the notion of problem-solving. According to the problem-solving ethos the designer was a kind of socio-industrial physician who, with a few well-chosen questions, a flow chart and a slide rule could prove that his solution was the best available.

One must not overlook the real benefits of the vogue for problem-solving, a term

which many already find a trifle passé and embarrassing. It made industrial designers measure, calculate and experiment rather than depending upon the revamping of historical precedents. But it also led to the ultimate folly of attempting to elevate design to a perfect science.

In his enthusiasm to prove that one design solution was better than another, the industrial designer dashed from the arms of the artist and craftsman to those of the social scientist and mathematician. Certainly, there are many factors in the evaluation of a design which can be quantified, particularly with regard to economic and functional criteria.

But, alas, human beings

are all too often perverse enough to prefer an expensive solution to a cheap one, and an unwieldy product to a convenient one. Why? Because in a society which has satisfied the basic requirements of sustenance and shelter consumers increasingly demand aesthetic and spiritual fulfilment from artefacts, which thereby become a species of quasi-art object in which considerations of utility play only a part.

Variants of the problem-solving doctrine have been welcomed and cultivated with enthusiasm by many institutions, including the Royal College of Art, which enjoys a virtual (and questionable) state-funded monopoly of advanced industrial design education.

The Royal College, it should be remembered, has a skeleton in the cupboard. During the 1930s it defied so far from its intended function of advanced design education that it became little more than a school of fine art combined with a teacher training centre. The Hambleden Report of 1936 actively considered transferring the design laurels, together with the funds, to the LCC's dynamic Central School.

In the event, the Royal College was let off with a bad scare and given time to put its house in order, a task which it achieved under the able direction of the late Sir Robin Darwin who became its head in 1948. The fine before young designers art epidemic was similarly begin to look again in contained in other colleges earnest.

Design Awards 1977: the products, the companies, the judges

PRODUCT

Consumer and contract goods
Sinclair Sovereign calculator
Chinese Ivory and Chinese
Black cutlery
Concept tableware
Countdown clock (CD1)
Format range of architectural
ironmongery
Tupper sailing dinghy
Tubetrack 7 display lighting
Airfield lighting range

Engineering components
Mardrive linear transporter
The Nibbler concrete crusher
P3000 and P4000 high
performance gear pumps
TR cable reel
Presco and SGB Presslok
range of scaffolding fittings

Engineering products
Lancer Boss 300 and 700
series sidelif trucks
725CM truck-mounted hydraulic
telescoping crane
Auto Sprint series 5 lathe
2803/2804 computer system
Trident range and Bankers
Treasury range safes
Series 320 multi pen 250mm
Industrial indicator recorder
Model 580 ratio recording
Infrared spectrophotometer

British motor vehicle industry
Rosette car wheel safety device
Delugrip road surfacing
material
Diaphragm spring "turnover"
clutch
Joloda fork-lift mechanical
roller conveyor
Easyheat removable cover for
open-topped commercial
vehicles

Compendium
Car conversion for disabled
drivers

COMPANY

Sinclair Radionics
David Mellor
Hornsea Pottery Co
The House of Carmen
James Gibbons
J. V. Dunhill Boats
Concord Lighting International
Thorn Lighting

The Marine Engineering Co
Hymac
Dowdy Hydraulic Units
Metropolitan Tool & Products
Press Components Co

Lancer Boss
Cosmos Crane Co (formerly
Crown Cranes)
EMI-MEC
International Computers
Chubb & Son's Lock & Safe Co
Chessell
Perkin-Elmer

Rubery Owen (Darlaston)
Dunlop
Automotive Products
Joloda Transport Equipment
George Neville Truck
Equipment

Toby Churchill

Members of the judging panels were as follows

Consumer and contract goods

Geoffrey Dunn, formerly chairman, Dunn's of Bromley (chairman)
Rosemary McRobert, director, Retail Trading Standards Association
Robert Heritage, industrial design consultant
David Gentlemen, graphic designer
John Shave, technical director, Dreamland Appliances
Peter Wood, lecturer in ergonomics, University of Surrey

Engineering products

R. J. Clayton, technical director, Hirst Research Centre, Gen. Electric Company (chairman)
Professor M. Alexander, department of mechanical engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology
Dr B. C. Lindley, managing director, Electrical Research Association
N. London, partner, London and Upjohn, industrial design consultants
D. C. Thomas, superintending engineering inspector of factories, HM Factory Inspectorate
R. L. Torrance, engineering director, Stothert & Pitt

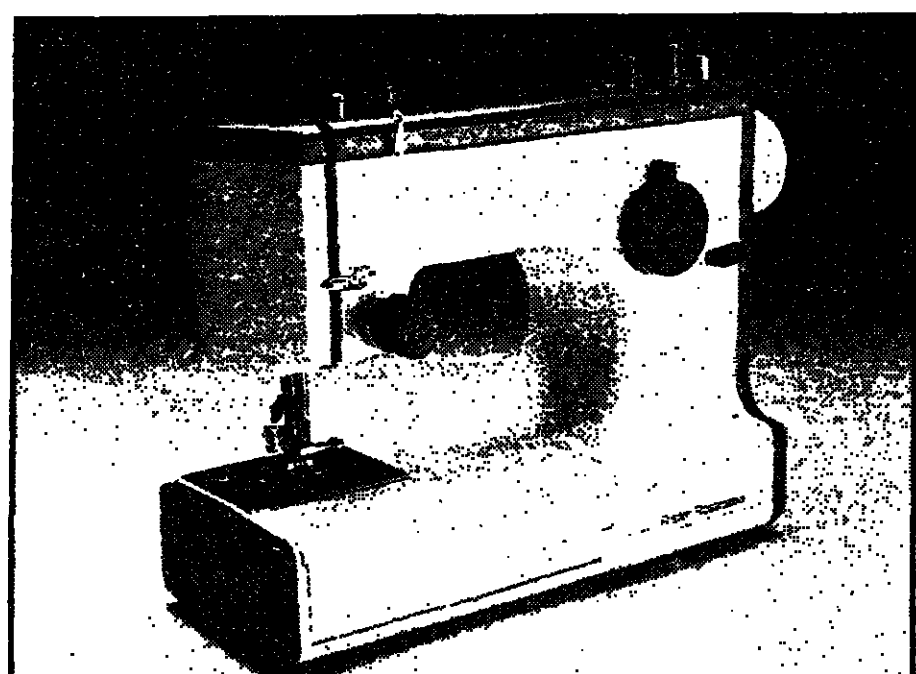
Engineering components

Professor J. Black, head of school of engineering, University of Bath (chairman)
S. Bergen, technical director, Pye Unicam
J. N. Butler, partner, BIS Design Consultants
A. J. Eglington, director of engineering and nuclear physics, Science Research Council
A. Dewhurst, chairman, Dewhurst & Partner
J. G. Keenan, technical director, dynamics, Dowty Rotol

British motor vehicle industry

Raymond Baxter, Tomorrow's World, BBC Television (chairman)
Gerald Broadbent, joint managing director, Baxley
Stanley Gillen, recently retired chairman and chief executive, Ford of Europe
Kenneth Grange, industrial design consultant, Pentagram Design Partnership
Judith Jackson, motoring correspondent, The Sunday Times
Marcus Jacobson, chief engineer, Automobile Association

There will be an exhibition of the award winning products in all four categories at the Design Centre, Haymarket, London, from May 30 to June 25. The consumer and contract goods will be shown simultaneously at the Design Centre, St Vincent Street, Glasgow; and the other three categories will be exhibited there from August 1 to September 10.



Small and successful: both of these products—not among this year's award winners—were designed in Britain for overseas manufacturers. The compact sewing machine, launched in 1971, was designed by Kenneth Grange of Pentagram for a Japanese company, and now sells around the world, notably in the United States, Canada and Britain. The two-kilogram washing machine was designed by Allied International Designers for a Belgian company in 1972. It sells for about £32, chiefly in Benelux and Germany.

The first agricultural machine to win a Design Council Award. MF of course.

The Massey-Ferguson MF30 Seed and Fertiliser Drill has already earned the approval of over 10,000 British farmers, making it far and away the most popular in the country.

However, one of the most rewarding accolades we could possibly have received is the Design Council Award—the first time any agricultural machine has ever won this coveted prize.

The MF30 Drill, which is available in a variety of sizes, is noted for the accuracy of its seeding, the precision of its spacing, its exceptional controllability and the overall sturdiness of its construction.

Performance is also excellent. Using the 30 row version, over 100 acres of land have been drilled in a normal working day. This kind of

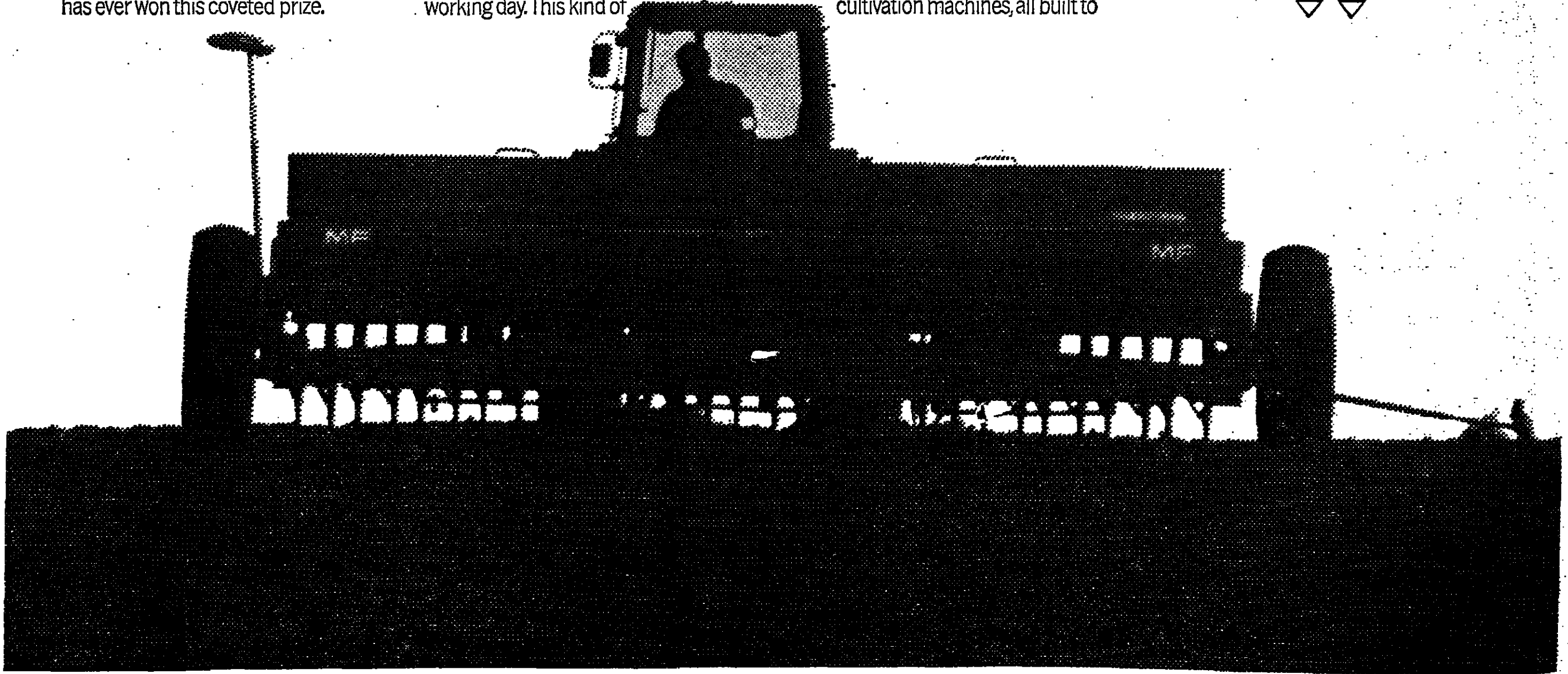
performance is being increasingly demanded by today's farmers from all their machines, and Massey-Ferguson engineers and designers are constantly working to improve the technology of farming.

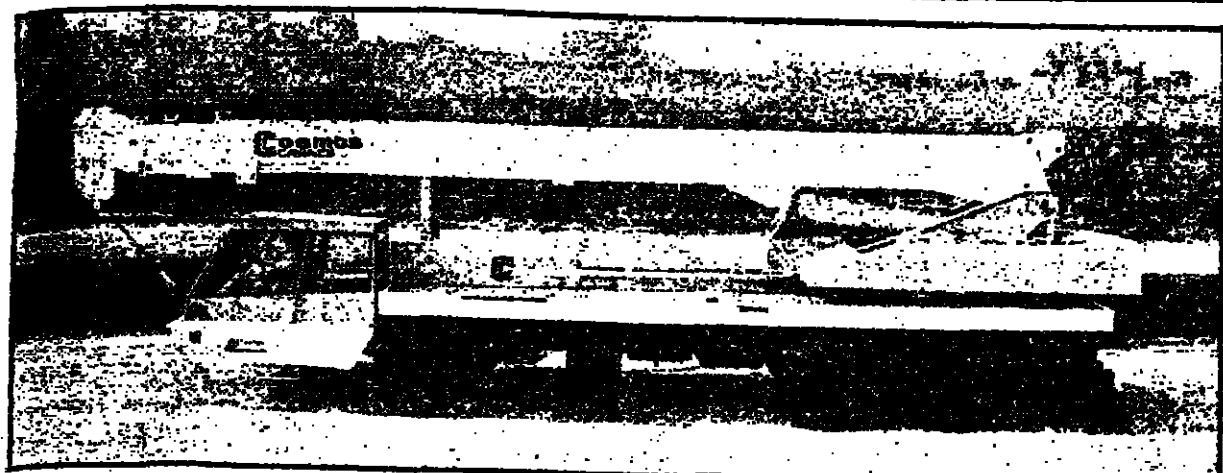
Massey-Ferguson's comprehensive range of farming equipment includes tractors, combine harvesters and cultivation machines, all built to

the same standards as the MF30 Drill.

Thank you Design Council. And thank you all the farmers who agree that the MF30 Drill is Britain's best.

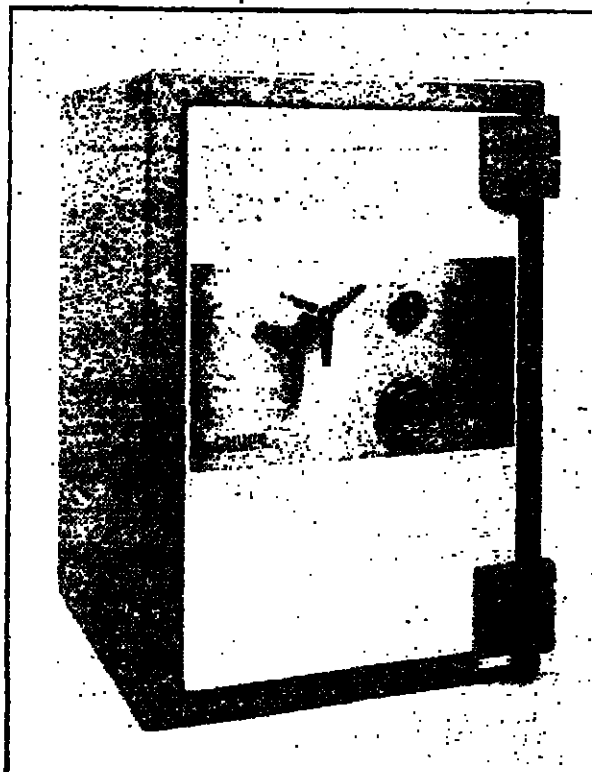
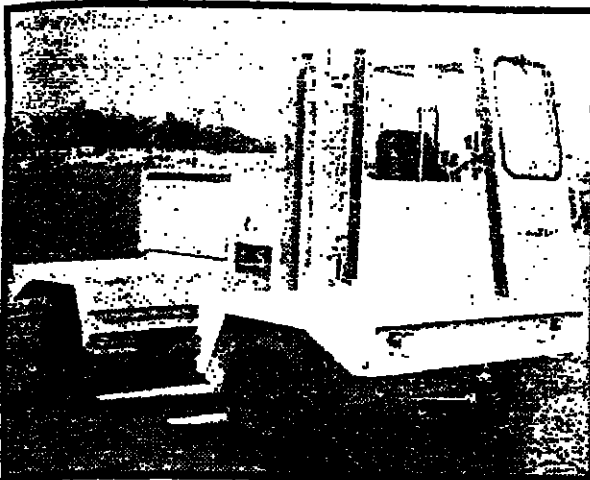
Massey-Ferguson
(United Kingdom) Limited,
Banner Lane, Coventry.





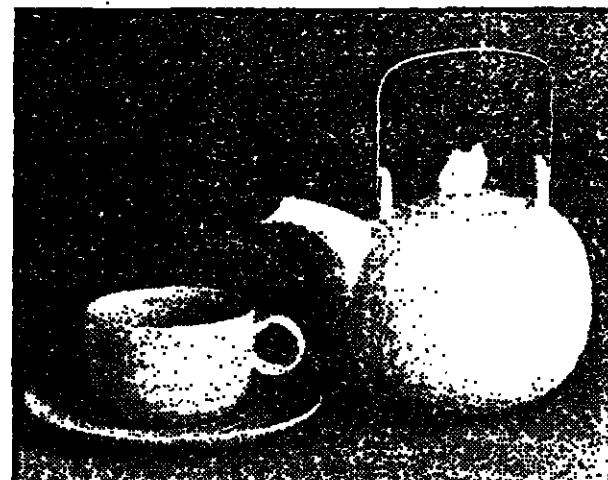
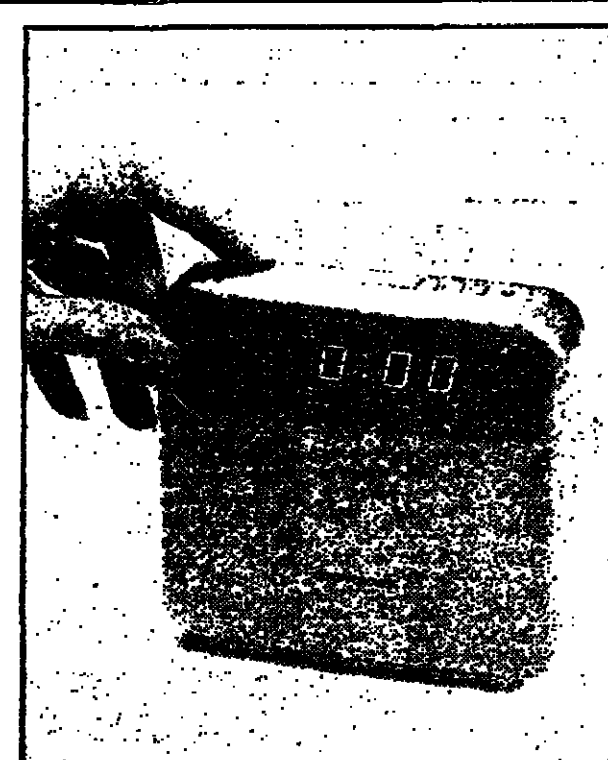
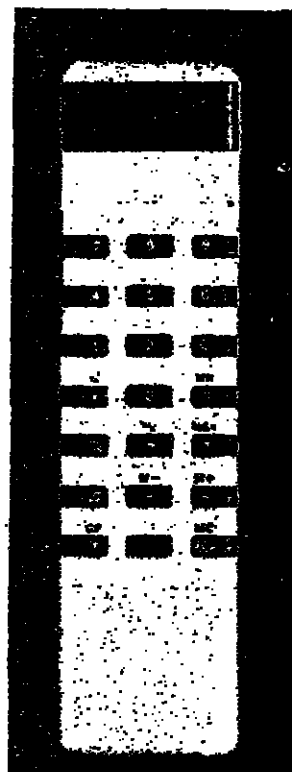
With the comfort and handling of a car, the 725CM truck-mounted telescopic boom crane (above) has won an award in the engineering products section for the Cosmos Crane Co., Ashington, Derbyshire. The first crane designed by the firm, it was

planned for easy assembly from parts made by local sub-contractors. Below: robustness and functional design have won a third award for Lancer Ross, of Leighton Buzzard, for its 300 and 700 series sidelif trucks. Right: the impressive security of the latest offering from Chubb.



A wide variety of products was represented in the eight awards in the consumer and contract goods section. Below: Sinclair Electronics, of Huntingdon, took an award with its slim Sovereign pocket calculator, which is available in chrome or gold finish. Below centre: the Topper sailing dinghy, a unique technical development, from J. V.

Dunhill Boats, of Basildon, was another winner. It has led the introduction of a new class in sailing. A digital clock (right), which can also be used as a timer, was successful for the House of Carmea, of London, as was (below right) the Concept range of tableware from Hornsea Pottery, of Hornsea, Yorkshire. The range is oven and freezer proof.



Cynicism has gone too far

continued from facing page

operating, although all leading manufacturers have entered models. The reason, the assessors say, is that not one has come up to the standard of excellence they are determined to maintain. Even the better entries fall down on details which should not be overlooked. Dashboard wiring instead of being clipped neatly behind the panel, hangs in limp tangles; the instrument panel design is poor, switches are difficult to locate, the carpet is inferior, and so on.

The popular ranges of British cars do not sell well in comparison with foreign makes, and the design awards

endorse what the consumer thinks. As informed, technically qualified outsiders, their judges give detailed reports on what they consider to be wrong, and invite resubmission when these faults have been corrected. This is constructive help, directly linked to the awards, which is often overlooked, although in at least one case (not a car) the faults were rectified and an award made the following year.

This year's consumer and contract goods awards also ram home the hard fact of what is happening to our manufacturing companies. There is no furniture, no textiles, no carpets, no wall coverings. Companies manufacturing such goods appear

to have put their heads down while they wait for the economic storm to blow over. I should have thought that, with the possible exception of furniture, the capital investment needed to introduce new designs would have been far less for this type of company than for those where heavy plant or moulding equipment is a necessary corollary to innovation in design.

The electronics industry on the other hand has come up with such award winners as the Thorn Airport Lighting system, which is truly innovative and has huge overseas marketing potential, the little Sinclair pocket calculator and the Carmen clock.

The Design Council was

wise to broaden the scope of its awards, and in the engineering section particularly it is giving recognition to work which is often of great significance and achievement, but which goes largely unremarked by the general public. It is unfortunate that the consumer and contract goods awards, which are the ones most people know about, have been the weakest for several years.

But the Design Council is noted for its tenacity, and its persistent lobbying of recalcitrant (or ignorant) manufacturers will surely persuade at least some of them how short sighted they are. That, if nothing else, would make the whole operation worth while.

Award winners sell faster

Over 20 years 90 companies have won Design Council awards for consumer goods. In a recent survey, conducted for Design magazine, a third of them described their experience. Their evidence indicates that products that win Design Council awards sell faster than others in a company's range. They help firms to sell abroad, sell to new customers, sell to new stores. Winning an award has a good effect on foreign buyers, on staff, on customers. All winners agree good design is important to commercial success.

Here is a summary of findings, expressed in terms of "yes" replies:—

- 1 Did the product that won a Design Council Award sell —
 - as well as expected 55 per cent
 - better than expected 48 per cent
 - less well 13 per cent
- 2 Compared with other products in your range was it:—
 - more successful 45 per cent
 - as successful 48 per cent
 - less successful 10 per cent
- 3 Compared with competing products was it:—
 - more successful 51 per cent
 - as successful 24 per cent
 - less successful 10 per cent
- 4 Did it sell —
 - faster than competing products 3 per cent
 - own products 3 per cent

- about the same as competing products 24 per cent
- own products 24 per cent
- quicker than competing products 62 per cent
- own products 45 per cent
- 5 Did the award help you:—
 - sell to new customers 68 per cent
 - sell in to new stores 34 per cent
 - sell abroad 72 per cent
- 6 Over what period did you amortize development costs:—
 - one year 24 per cent
 - two years 24 per cent
 - three years 7 per cent
 - other 17 per cent
- 7 Did the award have a good effect on:—
 - staff 80 per cent
 - customers 69 per cent
 - competitors 17 per cent
 - foreign buyers 55 per cent
 - your corporate image 83 per cent
- 8 Was the product:—
 - technically above average 93 per cent
 - easy to make 50 per cent
- 9 From experience would you say good design is:—
 - important to success 100 per cent
 - a matter of taste —
 - an unnecessary cost —

Percentages do not add up to 100 because of multiple answers. A cross-section of companies, large and small, replied to the questionnaire. Among them were Black and Decker, Chubb, Concord, Hilla, ICI, Ingersoll, Wolf Electric Tools, Ronco-Neopost, and Philips Electronic.

The success story in quality and design

The Crayonne philosophy is simple. In order that it should be fully understood a Crayonne Defined Purpose was drawn up at the very outset and distributed to all concerned. Crayonne's objective as stated, was "to provide a solution to the need for functional, well designed products within the home environment: furthermore, all designs were to be developed on the basis of aesthetic appeal, clearly defined purpose, value for money and the ability to be sold through a pre-determined sector of the retail market." Crayonne was the brainchild of David Sinigaglia, Joint Vice Chairman of Airfix Industries and Managing Director of Crayonne, who in 1972, recognising an obvious gap for high quality home accessories in the plastics market, had the foresight to consult Conran Associates and their design genius, coupled with Airfix's technical skill and experience, resulted in the perfection for which Crayonne is known today.

Crayonne has a strong design management bias and this, together with its desire to break into the market with entirely new products, necessitated the creation of a dynamic corporate image which could be projected within the company, through to the retailer and ultimately to the consumer. This image has been successfully maintained to the present day.

Since 1973 when the first product range, the Input Collection, was launched the company has moved from strength to strength now having no less than 95 products currently available on the market from within the following ranges:

- Inputs * Crayonne 1 and 2 Bathroom Accessories * Boxes
- Mushroom Lights * Record & Cassette Racks * Door Numbers
- Clocks * Kitchen Shelving

The two Bathroom ranges and the Kitchen Shelving have made particular impact in gaining Crayonne valuable shelf space in the High Street with an impressive list of customers which now includes most of the major department and chain store groups in the United Kingdom. This terrific achievement is attributable to the total package being offered by Crayonne to the Retailer. A complete merchandising consultancy service is available to enable retailers to maximise sales appeal, including an attractive display board and informative packaging specifically designed for successful in-store display.

crayonne

Expanding Market Overseas

Overseas, Crayonne is now well established in the USA where a subsidiary, Crayonne USA, was set up in February 1976. Crayonne is now sold in leading department stores including Bloomingdales, Abraham & Strauss, Design Research and J. C. Penny on the East Coast; Saxon Paints of Chicago and even one store in Alaska! In addition, Crayonne has distributors in the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Holland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Norway, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Spain and Sweden and has recently made appointments in Denmark, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The company's Norwegian Distributor, Jordan AS has been particularly successful in launching Crayonne in fifty-one retail outlets since the beginning of this year, and now Jordan Sweden are commencing their sales drive. Repeat orders from Jordan are already flowing in.

In Holland, ALM B.V. have been successful in selling Crayonne 1 bathroom accessories to the Royal Palace and have also secured a prestigious contract for a promotional item for a new pharmaceutical.

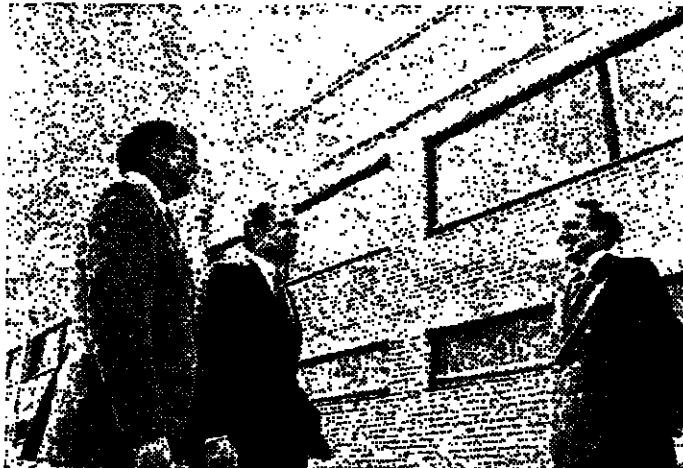
New Warehouse

In order to meet the rapidly growing demand for large back-up stocks to service both the home and export markets Crayonne, at the

instigation of Deputy Commercial Director, Len Smith, has recently acquired an additional 47,200 sq. ft. of warehousing in Sunbury on Thames.

Situated on a new Industrial Estate, the warehouse incorporates office accommodation for the export department and a superb showroom equipped with conference facilities.

The latter has been designed by Conran Associates who have maximised the excellent natural lighting and the wall space available for mounted displays. All Crayonne product lines will be permanently displayed in in-store presentations and, wherever possible, mounted display boards with suggested packaging layouts beneath.



David Sinigaglia (2nd left) is shown the new warehouse by Len Smith (right) and Export Administration Manager, Derek Rule (left).

Importance placed on exhibitions

February this year saw Crayonne exhibiting at two very important trade Fairs with outstanding success—the International Spring Fair, Birmingham and the International Housewares Fair, Cologne.

Application for double space at both exhibitions has already been made for 1978 and these will take place on 5-9 February 1978 and 18-19 February 1978 in Birmingham and Cologne respectively.

Other arrangements for this year are:—

28th April-14th May—Tel Aviv Modern Living Exhibition—where Crayonne is exhibiting jointly with our Distributors Sar Na.

5th-9th July—Tokyo The Japanese Housewares Fair—at the British Export Marketing Centre—exhibition by Crayonne.

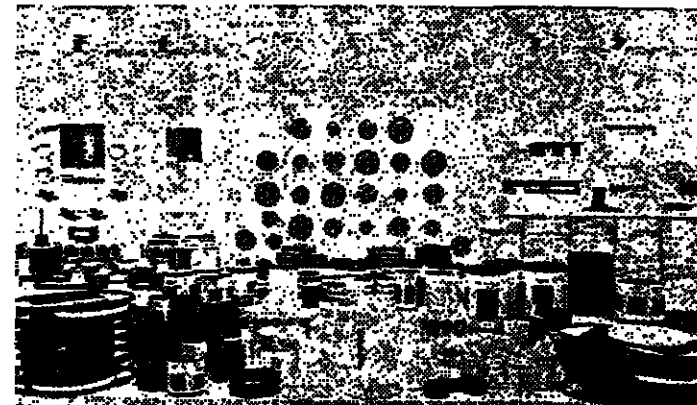
11th-15th July—Chicago National Housewares Exhibition—exhibition by Crayonne U.S.A.

Future development

Crayonne attaches the greatest importance to new product development which is kept within the strict confines of the original philosophy. Through experience gained to date a tremendous knowledge of home and export market requirements has been developed and whenever those requirements can be converted into a Crayonne product opportunity is seized!

A household name

It is now four years since the first product launch. Crayonne has developed in excess of 95 products, many of which have been accepted by the Design Council Index. It has sold many million pounds' worth of a new type of plastic home accessory to a public normally conservative to change. Crayonne is now firmly entrenched in many leading stores and is rapidly becoming a household name. This success is solely due to consistently providing good design, quality and value for money.



Some Crayonne products recently shown at the International Spring Fair, Birmingham.

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Only five entries out of 40 for engineering components have won awards, including (left) the P3000 and P4000 ranges of highly engineered hydraulic pumps from Dowty Hydraulic Units, of Cheltenham. The pumps, designed for high-volume production, are being produced at a rate of 3,000 a week for both home and overseas markets. The award is Dowty's second.



Left: the EasySheet mechanized cover which won an award for George Neville Truck Equipment, of Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

A car conversion for the disabled designed by Mr. Toby Churchill, of Cambridge, himself a disabled driver, has been commended in the motor vehicle industry category—the first award under an extension of the scheme to include prototypes.

Cynicism has gone too far

by José Manser

When the design awards started 20 years ago they were greeted with great enthusiasm by the press and considerable interest from consumers.

That was a time of optimism, with the economy booming, the home market healthy and little trace of the national habit of self-designation which now grips us. Designers and architects were the people we expected to provide us with the products and buildings we wanted, and we assessed their efforts with critical interest rather than abuse.

The awards in those early years went to consumer products like light fittings, fabrics, garden tools and furniture, some of which were excellent and would be acceptable today. Indeed, one of the very first, the Pride cutlery by Walker and Hall, is being reintroduced by its designer, Mr. David Mellor, who has also become a manufacturer in the intervening years.

So for the first years the awards, with their widely based criteria of "innovation, fitness for purpose, ease of use and good appearance" were treated with cautious respect by manufacturers and public alike. But gradually a note of sourness set in. Manufacturers who had jumped on what looked like a promisingly easy bandwagon woke up to the fact that one good design was no panacea for incipient business ills.

Total commitment to excellent design may pay off in commercial terms, but one well-designed object emanating from a company with no idealistic allegiance at all, and with rumbling management faults, certainly will not. Such isolated products sank and were never heard of again after the initial flurry of publicity. Journalists, who had indulged in euphoric copy had it quoted back at them, and became more wary about bestowing accolades.

Finally someone uttered a cynical aphorism about a design award being a kiss of death on a product, since when the yearly response to the awards has often been lukewarm and carping. This negative attitude has gone too far. From small beginnings the awards scheme has been greatly expanded. It now includes categories for the engineering goods (both products and components) that are of such vital importance to the country's economic health, the motor vehicle industry, and medical equipment.

The judges for all categories are of the highest standing, including not only designers but leading industrialists and distinguished academics. It is a measure of how important they consider the awards to be that so many successful people give hours, without remuneration, to the tedious and meticulous business of elimination and selection. I know from my experience of sitting on the panel of judges that there is an acute shortage of consumer products worthy even of consideration for awards. The economy, the power wielded by accountants in large companies who incline to veto innovation in hard times, and the general aesthetic filter-

acy from which the executive classes suffer, have all contributed to that fact.

Nevertheless, there are interesting consumer products, some from young companies risking capital on new ideas, and for them the short sharp boost given by a design award can contribute considerably to the success of their efforts.

House of Carmen is such a company. It gained one of this year's consumer and contract goods awards with its Countdown CD1 electronic digital clock. Until late in 1975, Carmen was simply an importer of Danish heated hair rollers. Competition and the fall in value of the pound pushed it into diversification. It decided to enter the digital clock market, commissioned Mr. John Ryan, the designer, to work on a simple modern design which, it correctly assessed, did not yet exist in this country, and now has it and similar products being manufactured in Scotland.

The Countdown CD1 is selling well, and Carmen intends to exploit its award with advertising, streamers on all its literature, and press releases to customers. It reckons it will be specially valuable in the important overseas markets (Sweden and Germany are big buyers) where an honour from the British Design Centre appears to carry more weight than it does at home.

Big companies as well as small place value on the winning of these awards. Many have entered and won, some on several occasions, some for engineering as well as consumer products.

Chubb and Sons is a company where the interest in design begins at the top and permeates the whole firm. Lord Hayter, the chairman, is a vice-president of the Royal Society of Arts and chairman of its industrial design bursaries board as well as being a past member of the Design Council. His belief in good design is keen, unequivocal and well known, and Chubb has just won its fourth award, this time for a safe.

Lancer-Boss Ltd, the heavy lorry manufacturers (target exports over 76 per cent of total sales this year) has won its third engineering award and Mr. Neville Bowman-Shaw, the executive chairman, is immensely pleased. "First it generates confidence within the company and sets a high standard, particularly for the design and sales teams. Everyone's imagination is captured, they realize we have got something good and people from all departments suggest new ideas."

Secondly, because of the Design Council's government backing, it's a huge help with our world-wide exports. It is influential when we are tendering for large contracts, it impresses our dealers and is invaluable in the negotiation of licences. Licensees approach us rather than the other way round and we are immediately in a strong position for obtaining good terms."

At the mechanical handling exhibition at Birmingham in May, the Lancer-Boss stand has been designed to focus on the run of awards. If this gives an unduly rosy picture of the awards scheme it is because I have concentrated on companies whose total approach qualifies them for success and

who regard design as an essential factor in their overall strategy. Neglect in any department is likely to cause failure and too often that neglect appears in the design department.

That fact is constantly trumpeted by enlightened industrialists and civil servants, followed by designers whose talents are often more in demand overseas than in their own country—and ignored by too many of our own companies, especially in

certain industries. Things have come to a ludicrous pass when British designers are employed to work on Japanese and Italian goods which are then imported and sell well in Britain, but that is actually happening.

The design awards are a direct reflection of the over-enthusiasm of the motor industry during any of the four years the motor awards have been

continued on facing page

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OVERSEAS Dr Owen rules out quick EEC action on the Middle East

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, April 25

Any new committee towards either a Middle East peace plan or a Palestinian homeland, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, spent more than two hours last night discussing with Mr Ismail Fahmi, his Egyptian counterpart, the problems of southern Africa, the fighting in Zaire, the role of the Soviet Union in Africa and the present position in the Middle East.

Dr Owen told Mr Fahmi—later Mr Mahmoud Riad, the Arab League Secretary-General—that the EEC may consider some Middle East peace initiative later in the year, but for the present he held out little hope that the European nations would put any political pressure on the United States or Israel to advance the prospect of a Geneva peace conference.

"The general feeling," he said after his first round of talks with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, "is that the time is not yet ripe."

Dr Owen, who is the present chairman of the EEC foreign ministers' council, pointed out that the Israeli elections had yet to be held and that Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary

of State, was due to pay his second visit to the Middle East in June.

Both he and Mr Fahmi said they were satisfied with the outcome of their meeting, although it was obvious that the Egyptians failed to gain any fresh and specific British support for a Palestinian state on the West Bank.

When asked by an Egyptian journalist about Britain's attitude towards a "homeland" for the Palestinians, Dr Owen recalled that his predecessor, Anthony Crosland, had said in the United Nations that Britain believed the Palestinians should have such a homeland.

Most nations now accept this view, including the United States. The question at issue is where it should be established, and on this point Dr Owen was not committing himself. It was a matter for negotiation between the parties concerned, he observed.

The Egyptians are particularly interested in the EEC's role in the Middle East because two months ago the semi-official Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram* published what it claimed was an EEC foreign ministers' appeal to Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

According to the paper, the



Dr Owen being welcomed in Cairo yesterday by Mr Fahmi, Egypt's Foreign Minister.

ministers were prepared to guarantee collectively any peace settlement, but later decided to withhold their appeal until their foreign ministers had visited the Arab states.

Questioned about the alleged draft document today, Dr Owen replied: "The format does not exist."

The Foreign Secretary this afternoon travelled to the once-fashionable Cairo suburb of

Heliopolis—now the centre for Cairo's military garrison—for talks with General Gamassi, Egypt's War Minister. Tonight he was due to host a reception for Mr Fahmi at the British Ambassador's residence in Cairo.

In due course Mr Shimon Peres, if he is confirmed as Prime Minister after the Israeli elections, will also visit Mr Carter.

This morning, President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Rabin, the departing Israeli Prime Minister, have already visited Washington, and President Carter will meet President Assad of Syria in Europe next month.

In due course Mr Shimon Peres, if he is confirmed as Prime Minister after the Israeli elections, will also visit Mr Carter.

Pakistan's martial law challenged in court

From Richard Wigg
Rawalpindi, April 25

The opposition National Alliance today filed proceedings before the Punjab High Court in Lahore against the imposition of martial law on Thursday by the Government of Mr Bhutto. An opposition lawyer indicated that they would seek to challenge the move as unconstitutional.

With most of their leaders now jailed by Mr Bhutto, the Alliance met today under the chairmanship of Pir Pagaro, the Oxford-educated head of the Hur people and president of the Muslim League. The meeting issued a declaration warning the military authorities of the risks of partiality and "one-sided" use of martial law.

In Karachi, Hyderabad and Lahore the Army is now warning shopkeepers not to exploit the crisis by charging higher prices. They have been ordered to bring down prices to pre-crisis levels "at once". There has been panic buying by families fearful of the future.

The Army is also setting up complaints centres where shoppers can report cases of exorbitant charges in confidence, and in Hyderabad it is issuing its own price lists, telling shopkeepers they must be strictly adhered to.

At the same time the opposition intends to file a petition to bring down prices to pre-crisis levels "at once". There has been panic buying by families fearful of the future.

The exercise would, it seems, be subsidised by wealthy backers of the Alliance.

Islamabad, April 25.—General Tikka Khan, former Pakistan Army chief, who is expected

to be given a Cabinet post later this week, was today elected to the Senate. Informal sources said Mr Bhutto was likely to appoint him either Defence or Interior Minister. General Tikka was martial law administrator and Governor in East Pakistan in 1971, when fighting broke out there.

He has been serving as the prime minister's special assistant on national security since his retirement early last year after four years as Army chief-of-staff. Political observers said his inclusion in the Cabinet would strengthen Mr Bhutto's hand in dealing with the army in the present political upheaval.

Hitherto Mr Bhutto has held the Defence portfolio himself. He left the Interior Ministry post vacant when he named his new Government at the end of last month.

General Tikka was elected to the Senate unopposed at a five-minute session of the new National Assembly elected last month. He will be sworn in tomorrow at a regular Senate session.

The veteran opposition politician Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, former leader of the Red Shirt movement against British colonial rule in North-West Frontier province, has been granted special permission to go to China for acupuncture treatment, reliable sources said today.

Now in his 80s and in failing health, he has been under house arrest much of the time since he returned in 1972 from nine years in voluntary exile in neighbouring Afghanistan. —Reuter.



Indians' champion: Marlon Brando, the American film actor who is on a visit to Britain, said in London yesterday that the American Government had continued a policy of genocide towards its Indian population (writes Ken Gossling). "They are up against the massive force of the American Government," he said. "The Indian will not give up. It is a now or never fight and the Indians know it."

Mr Brando, who is seeking funds in Europe for a 13-part documentary series on the Indians' situation, added that the reaction of white people to *Roots*—in its book and television versions—was a clear indication that Americans were ready to see themselves in a fresh perspective historically.

For 90 minutes Mr Brando addressed a press conference on the subject of his campaign after recording an interview for the *Tonight* programme on BBC Television this evening.

The Indian was "completely dismayed" that American foreign policy was based on human rights while they suffered every day of their lives.

New claims on Rhodesia oil sanctions busting

By Roger Vielvoye
Energy Correspondent

New evidence that oil refined in South Africa by Shell and British Petroleum is supplying about 50 per cent of Rhodesia's oil requirements was presented yesterday by two anti-apartheid groups to the official inquiry

which is examining whether British oil companies have been involved in sanction busting.

The inquiry was announced by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, earlier this month. The two groups, the Illicit Oil Group and the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said in their sub-

mission that they had found new sources to confirm their earlier allegations that oil from Shell and BP was being supplied to Rhodesia through the South African company Freight Services.

The submission said that while there were very strong

grounds for believing that the South African subsidiaries of Shell and BP were providing oil for Rhodesia, they were not accusing the head offices of the two companies of direct involvement in sanctions busting.

In brief

US officials in Havana talks

Washington, April 25.—Senior State Department officials are in Havana for the first time since relations were broken with Cuba in 1961.

Names of all the delegation have been withheld, but the team is ostensibly concerned with resuming talks with Cuba over the new 200-mile fishing limit.

Manson appeal rejected

Washington, April 25.—The Supreme Court today refused to hear Charles Manson's appeal against seven murder convictions for his role in the killing of Sharon Tate, the actress, and six other people in 1969. He must now serve a full life term in jail.

Kidnap death threat

San Salvador, April 25.—Guerrillas who kidnapped Señor Mauricio Borjesson Pohl, El Salvador's Foreign Minister, six days ago, say they will execute him on Wednesday unless the Government meet their demands for the release of political prisoners.

Geos's new orbit

Cape Canaveral, Florida, April 25.—Scientists today changed the orbit of the European Geos satellite to one which they hope will enable it to perform 70 per cent of its programme. A malfunction in its launch rocket placed it in the wrong orbit.

Elusive petrol peace

Melbourne, April 25.—Arbitration talks aimed at ending the state-wide petrol tanker drivers' strike in Victoria have broken down. The dispute has lasted 10 days. All filling stations in the state have closed down.

Coffee demand falls

New York, April 25.—The high price of coffee has caused a sharp fall in demand for it in the United States. Thirteen per cent fewer green beans were roasted since the beginning of the year than during the same period last year.

10,000 in battles

Port Moresby, April 25.—About 10,000 tribal warriors fought each other today in five different battles in Papua, New Guinea's Enga province. Two deaths are reported.

Machel visit to West

Stockholm, April 25.—President Machel of Mozambique, making his first official visit to the West, held talks today with Mr Faeldin, the Swedish Prime Minister.

Dentists' tax protest

Tel Aviv, April 25.—Private dental clinics throughout Israel were closed today in protest against more stringent income tax checks by Government investigators.

Gunfights break uneasy calm in Beirut

Beirut, April 25.—Gunfights erupted again today in the populous west Beirut district of Corniche Mazraa, breaking an uneasy calm which had settled on the area at dawn.

Residents said that the fighting, which began just before noon, seemed less intense than at the weekend, and efforts to quell the outbreak appeared to be succeeding.

A spokesman for the radical Palestinian Rejection Front said earlier today that "six or seven" of his group's supporters had been killed during yesterday's fighting.

It is generally believed here that the clashes involved the mainly Syrian Arab peace-keeping force and gunmen mostly belonging to a pro-Libyan Nasserite group whose leader is believed to be in Iraq.

Residents of the district, where fighting started on Saturday night, said gunshots and intermittent explosions continued until dawn today before an uneasy calm.

The commander of Palestinian forces today ordered a withdrawal from the combat zone. —Reuter and Agence France-Press.

KIM IL SUNG

ON FURTHER DEVELOPING THE NURSING AND UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN

Speech Delivered at the 6th Session of the
5th Supreme People's Assembly April 29, 1976



education and are now going to adopt the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children. If the new generation are brought up collectively from early childhood and given compulsory 11-year education, all of them will grow up to be Communists with sound ideological consciousness.

As I have already said, we are doing this by no means because our country is rich. In the past few years we have introduced compulsory 11-year education and reared all the children in nursery schools and kindergartens, and this cost the state a tremendous expenditure.

Now 3.5 million children are in the charge of nursery schools and kindergartens in our country. And the number of pupils and students enrolled in schools of all levels from primary school to university is as many as 5,050,000. In all, nearly 8.6 million children and students are trained at state expense in our country. The number accounts for half our population. Taking charge of the upbringing of children and students makes up half the population cannot but be a heavy burden to the state.

There are also many other things for which our state bears expenses. In our country the military expenditure is fairly large. I think our country is shouldering the heaviest military burdens. Because the U.S. imperialists are occupying half the territory of our country and, together with their stooges, are openly making aggressive moves against our Republic, we are compelled to exert ourselves to increase our defence potentials.

The state also meets large expenditures to provide for the people's livelihood. We supply food grain to the workers and office employees almost free of charge. We supply them with coal and all other items of daily necessities at cheap prices. Although the expenditure is great, we lay great emphasis on the nurture of children for the development of the country and the accomplishment of the tasks of the transition period. If we only think of the expenses and neglect our education of children, we have decided to adopt a Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children at this session.

The basic aim of making this law at the current session is, in brief, to bring up all the children to be true men of a communist type by nurturing

them collectively in a communist way. Rearing children at state and social expense is also of importance for freeing women from the heavy house-keeping burdens and revolutionizing and working-classing them.

In our country the women are now turning forward on the wheel of the revolution. The women hold 48 per cent of the work force in our national economy. They are playing an important part in the fields of education, health service, commerce, and light industry. Particularly in agriculture, women hold the overwhelming portion of the work force and are playing a decisive role. It is no exaggeration to say that all work in the countryside, except tractor operation done by men, is performed by women.

Under the circumstances in which women participate in socialist construction, they cannot be relieved of the house-keeping burdens. This is the only way to enable them to join public life and to take part in the building of socialism.

In fact, the women to take an active part in the building of socialism, our Party mainly aims at revolutionizing and working-classing them. Since they account for half of the population, their revolutionization and working-classing is the revolutionization and working-classing of the whole society.

An effective way of women's revolutionization and working-classing is to let them actively participate in socialist construction. If they are confined to their homes apart from working, organized lives, they cannot be revolutionized. We think it would be very difficult for a husband to educate and revolutionize his wife at home. Words and writings alone are not enough to revolutionize people. The revolutionization and working-classing of people can proceed successfully only through the socialist working life and organized life. The women's revolutionization and working-classing is possible only when they go out into society and actively take part in mental or physical labour and train themselves through organized community life.

For the women to take an active part in the building of socialism their burden should be lightened by bringing up children collectively in nursery schools and kindergartens.

As you see, the collective nurture of children at state and social expense is not only needed to bring them up to be men of a truly communist type, but indispensable for the revolutionization and working-classing of women. We must therefore bring up children on communist lines, regardless of the expenses.

The collective nurture of children at state and social expense in our country has

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nothing to do with charity work. It is also fundamentally different from nursing children for the rich in capitalist society. With us the main point is in nurturing the working women's children; we are doing this work for the purpose of rearing the new generation into communist-type men and revolutionizing and working-classing women. I believe our Party is quite right in undertaking this work.

We should sum up and legally confirm the successes and experiences gained in the communist nurture of children over the past years and, on this basis, improve the work of nursing and educating children. A law making something immutable, if the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children adopted this time is found to be defective in the course of its execution, we can amend it.

The most important question in promoting the work of nurturing children is to conduct the training of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers well. At present each province has its own college and centres for the training of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers, and they must be run better in future, so that a large number of nursery-school and kindergarten teachers fully qualified politically and professionally for the upbringing of children are turned out. Only then will it be possible to provide revolutionary education to the children and bring them up to be communist men intellectually, morally and physically fit.

Further, the management and operation of nursery schools and kindergartens should be improved so that the advantages of collective nurturing of children at nursery school and kindergarten over their home upbringing under parental care are demonstrated.

Our country now has more than 60,000 nursery schools and kindergartens. All of them are well-equipped. They are furnished and equipped well and are properly run. Visiting cooperative farms or factories, I find their nurseries kept clean and the children healthy. The women are very happy that nurseries and kindergartens are well equipped and properly run. They are glad to have their children in the nurseries and kindergartens. In general the nursery schools and kindergartens are now in good shape.

But we must not rest content with this. Following the enactment of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children at this SPA session, the nurseries and kindergartens should be better equipped and managed more effectively.

Now the thing is to equip them better from the cultural and sanitary standpoint and supply the children with enough nutrients. All the nursery schools and kindergartens should be provided fully with cultural and sanitary facilities, which should be taken good care of. At the same time, the supply of nutrients to the nurseries and kindergartens should be improved to feed the children better. Even though we cannot satisfy our needs, we must feed children well. Even though the grown-up feel some lack of supplies, the children should be provided with enough of everything they need.

After the promulgation of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children, you need not forcibly enrol in nurseries and kindergartens those whose grandmothers or parents want to rear them at home, on the pretext of developing the upbringing of children. This law is not one that restrains the freedom of parents to bring up their little ones at home. Those who want to raise their children at home may do so.

I think many nursery-school and kindergarten teachers have come to this SPA meeting ready to make speeches. But since this is a busy farm season, we cannot afford to be long with their meeting. Let us hear their undelivered speeches later at some other opportunities and wind up the meeting here. I hope you will understand the circumstances which prevent you from making many speeches.

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Parties come out for battle, but will the army have the casting vote?

"Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking..." is the sniggering phrase which politicians begin their speeches in every satire. But in Spain, about to hold its first democratic general elections in 41 years, there are many candidates who could truthfully say it.

Sr Santiago Carrillo, of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), brought the fact home at a recent news conference in Madrid when he was asked if he expected to run into any difficulties in hiring halls for political rallies. He replied: "I really don't know, I haven't hired one in 40 years."

Many modern political figures in Spain have done their share of speaking in public, but at clandestine meetings in private homes or other secret places, and paid dearly for it—like Sr Carlos Zayas, of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), who spent about two years in jail on political charges. There are many other probable candidates who have also suffered for expressing an opinion.

Of course, there are some Spanish politicians who are quite accustomed to public speaking, like the former Interior Minister, Sr Manuel Fraga Iribarne, of Popular Alliance (AP). But Sr Fraga Iribarne now says things he would not have said publicly while Generalissimo Franco was alive.

At a rally of his neo-Francoist coalition in Cordoba, he harangued, "corruption must be combated. I myself saw my political career come to a halt when I opposed corruption." He was obviously referring to the Matosa swindle, which was duly covered up after the dictator announced a pardon which rescued even some of his ministers from the danger of prosecution. Sr Fraga, who was not implicated in the government credit scandal, lost his post as General Franco's Minister of Information and Tourism after he failed to stop the press from mentioning the Edon operation. In his Cordoba speech, the ex-minister and former ambassador to Britain did not explain why he had waited so long to personally denounce that instance of corruption.

Because the entrenched rich and the newly prosperous of Spain are conservative and concerned, and because the old regime's political machinery is still in working order in the rural regions which will have proportionately better numerical representation in the future Parliament than the cities, Sr Fraga Iribarne and his reactionary running mates seem to have the best chances of gaining office.

The novelty of elections has so fanned the flame of ambition that about 200 political parties have appeared in the last few years, and more than 130 of them have already been legalized. Those figures do not include tens of minute parties, mostly on the far left, which have not asked to be legalized.

At the other end of the scale the neo-Spanish New Force (FN) party, several of whose members are either under arrest or being sought for questioning in connexion with recent political assassinations, could hardly be more right-wing, and Sr Fraga Iribarne's coalition, which was originally announced as a centre movement with the Democratic Reform (RD) party as a nucleus, is so far right now that it easily embraces the leading philosopher of Spain's reactionaries, the former Public Works Minister, Sr Gonzalo Fernández de la Mota, and is vying with Sr Blas Piñar's New Force party for the favour of the military.

Near the middle of the political spectrum are a number of parties which up to now have been attracted by two political magnets, the Popular Party (PP), led by Sr Pio Cabanillas—whose strength derives partly from the fact that General Franco sacked him from the post of Minister of Information for being too liberal—and the Christian Democrats, divided in leadership among the former Information Minister, Sr Joaquín Ruiz Jiménez, a lawyer, Sr José María Gil-Robles (son and front-man of his father of the same name), and others.

But Sr Cabanillas's organization is crumbling under pressure from another centre movement which appears to be manipulated from behind the scenes by the Premier Sr



The novelty of elections has so fanned the flame of ambition that 200 parties have applied for recognition

Adolfo Suárez. One of Sr Cabanillas's potential front-runners, the former Foreign Minister, Sr José María de Arellano, the Count of Matagorda, left the cabanillas coalition, presumably under pressure from Sr Suárez.

The other magnet of the centre seems to be losing strength, too, with lukewarm socialists and various varieties of social democrats still adrift, and Sr Ruiz-Jiménez making pacts for a joint ticket with the PSOE in certain provinces.

In the circumstances, whatever strength the centre—which has many philosophies and few programmes—could muster would be greatly accentuated by the active participation of the Premier, but his participation would at the same time overshadow the images of other centre politicians.

The well-organized Communist Party, small but highly publicity-conscious, is bending backwards to show how well behaved it can be now that it is legal. There could be something symbolic in the fact that the PCE is moving its main Madrid office from the Street of the Virgin to the rather staid upper class Salamanca borough, close to the headquarters of the far-right New Force party. But neither the Communist Party nor the extreme right is expected to poll more than a tiny percentage of the vote.

The many regional parties can be counted on to influence the elections in surprising ways, because they often seem to prefer to associate with another regional party of different political persuasion than with a Madrid-based party whose general political orientation is identical to their own. There are also other phenomena of interest to students of political science, such as the Carlist Party, which manages to reconcile Marxism, religious fervour and devotion to a strong monarchy. Its would-be ruler is King Juan Carlos's exiled cousin, Prince Carlos Hugo, who is the Pretender of a branch of the royal family which lost several wars of succession more than a century ago.

And, of course, there are the republicans, represented by the Spanish Democratic Republican Association (ARDE), the initials in Spanish spell the word for "burn"—and others. They are now being persecuted as subversives, although one suspects the persecution is more the result of conservative pressure from the military establishment and the retrenched political police than to any uneasiness on the part of the king.

The line-up would not be complete, however, without the "Guardians" which it is so hoped will not cast the deciding vote: the armed forces. Just how sensitive Spain's generals are to the profound changes taking place is clear from their bitter denunciation of the Government's decision to legalize the Communist Party as "repulsive," and by the difficulty Sr Suárez had in finding another admiral to replace the Navy Minister when he resigned in protest.

Harry Debelius

Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU)

In *The Times* of January 4, 1977, an advertisement appeared consisting of an unpublished letter to the editor of *The Guardian* from Dr Abraham Marcus on the subject of CAABU.

The advertisement reflected on the integrity of the "leading lights" of the council and specifically of Mr Christopher Mayhew. It invited the view that they were "deeply anti-Semitic" and expressed the view that they supported a particular proposition, namely that Zionism is racist which Dr Marcus described as a "Streichler-like invention."

In view of representations made to him and in case the advertisement, appearing as it did on the main feature page, was taken to present editorial opinion, the editor takes this opportunity of making it clear that he regards these criticisms as unfounded and he dissociates himself from them unreservedly. He accepts that CAABU, in pursuing its aim of fostering a better understanding among British people of the Arabs and their aspirations, is not motivated by anti-Semitism. He recognizes that Mr Mayhew himself has a long and distinguished record of opposition to anti-Semitism and of support and friendship for Jewish people.

The editor regrets the offence which the publication of the advertisement gave to those concerned in CAABU.

Let us give President Amin a welcome that will change his whole life

Bernard Levin

I think we are all about to make a potentially fatal mistake about President Amin, in addition to all the fatal mistakes made so far. (The fatality is, of course, literal rather than metaphorical, but since it has not so far applied, and is most unlikely to apply in the future, to the staff of the Foreign Office, or indeed the people of this country in general, it can be the more easily borne here.)

The mistake, ominously signalled by many an inspired leak and many a discreet sounding of Commonwealth governments, consists of the rapidly hardening intention to keep him out of Britain, despite the fact that as a head of state, he is entitled to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in June. (Britain has broken off diplomatic relations with Uganda; but that is not equivalent to expelling Uganda from the Commonwealth, an action which in any case could not be taken unilaterally by this country.)

For a government which officially welcomed Mr Choušek from Czechoslovakia, a government, moreover, representing a party which welcomed Mr Shelepin and Mr Ponomarev from the Soviet Union, this sudden access of fastidiousness has a comic side, though the other one is rather more prominent. (The comic side is not to be ignored, though, and if Amin does come here I am looking forward to Mr Clive Jenkins, Mr Ian Mikardo and Mr Len Murray ostentatiously refusing to meet a brutal dictator.)

There is a case to be made for Amin's exclusion, on what might be termed hygienic grounds. He is not

merely a despot (what do you suppose all the other heads of one-party Commonwealth African governments are?), but a particularly vile murderer. Some of his victims, like Archbishop Luvum, have been prominent figures whose deaths have aroused very widespread feelings; but the list of Amin's unnamed corpses is now tens of thousands long, and his killers are still at work. Even the British Government, it is argued, must draw the line somewhere, and what ever such a line is drawn, surely Amin must be on the far side of it.

There is one small difficulty embedded in this argument, though. I do not rest my case on it. If Amin is to be excluded, what reason will be given? It is no use making a moral gesture if you pretend while doing so that you are just scratching your ear or waving to a friend. (It is probably no use making a moral gesture anyway, but that is another matter.) I remember the proposed visit to this country of Eva Perón in 1947: she was a considerable embarrassment to the Attlee Government, because as the wife of a head of state she could diplomatically insist on meeting the King and Queen, and some deft footwork was required to ensure that their Majesties, while not being advised by ministers to refuse such a meeting, were (most regretably) otherwise engaged, out of London, on essential monarchical business when the itchy-palmed tyrantess was due to make a brutal dictator's visit. (The hint and dice, come, but Amin is hardly one to take hints.)

If the same attitude is displayed

to Amin's visit—if, for instance, he were to be excluded on the ground that a serious outbreak of cattlepest in Uganda made it unsafe for any Ugandan visitors to be admitted for a couple of months, or if, less sensationally, the Commonwealth Secretary were to announce that it had been decided that Amin's presence would be "inappropriate" or "liable to misconstruction"—it would be altogether pointless; yet it is hard to envisage the British Government, let alone the whole Commonwealth, announcing that the reason is that Amin has simply murdered too many people. (Besides, how would the president of a state which includes Zanzibar sign such a communiqué with a straight face?)

But there is a better way. Let us, with, if desired, appropriate expressions of distaste overcome by diplomatic necessity, invite Amin like all the other Commonwealth leaders. When he is here, let us show him all the appropriate diplomatic courtesies; let the Queen stiffen her personal feelings—it is her job to do so, after all—and entertain him along with the rest. When the conference is over, let us invite him to stay on to see something of the country; he could have an official tour, inspect the troops at Sandhurst (perhaps escorted by that Gallipoli Major who seems to think that his ex-Sergeant is a splendid chappie, though perhaps inclined to be a bit headstrong these days), go to Ascot and Coventry, Gardai, open hydro-electric works in Scotland, pop back to Ipi-Tombi. Nor is that all;

properly primed, our EEC partners should also invite him to see their countries, if only to discuss trade with Uganda and possible technical aid for its economy. It should not be difficult, by such or similar means, to keep Amin in Europe for a month, or even longer.

I am perfectly serious, and by now the reason for my modest proposal should be apparent. The condition of Uganda, bounded by fear, corruption, arbitrary rule and economic catastrophe, is desperate. Amin's vile rule is maintained by his random Stalinist cruelty. But the clue is in the word "random". As is shown by the defection of such loyal servants of his regime as his personal pilot and the former Minister of Justice (to say nothing of the ridiculous Princess Elizabeth of Toro, who was not so long ago pleased to strut before the United Nations as Amin's envoy—Um not sure she wasn't "Foreign Minister" for a time—and denounce Israel while praising Amin as "a straightforward, honest leader"), nobody in Uganda, however devoted to him or his regime, is safe from his mad vengeance, or can believe in any such safety.

In the circumstances, I believe that if Amin is kept out of Uganda for a sufficient length of time, so that his dreadful, hypnotic presence is removed, his regime will be overthrown.

Nkrumah, towards the end of his own tyranny in Ghana, was almost as despot and brutal as Amin, though on nothing like the same scale, and without Amin's obviously paranoid

impulses. Moreover, he took care to keep the support of those with power unless he really thought they were plotting against him, and made no such disastrous errors as Amin has in the indiscriminate nature of his tyranny. Yet when he went on his state visit to China he was greeted even as he descended the steps of the aeroplane, with the news that he was no longer dictator of China, but plain Mr Nkrumah of no fixed abode.

It is almost inconceivable that a similar fate would not overtake Amin, whose position is far more precarious (and far more obviously so) than was Nkrumah's. But in view of the coward and crushed nature of the people he would be leaving behind him, time is needed for his overthrow—time is needed. He has been out of Uganda several times already, but never for more than a week or two; a month in Europe should suffice—with luck, much less.

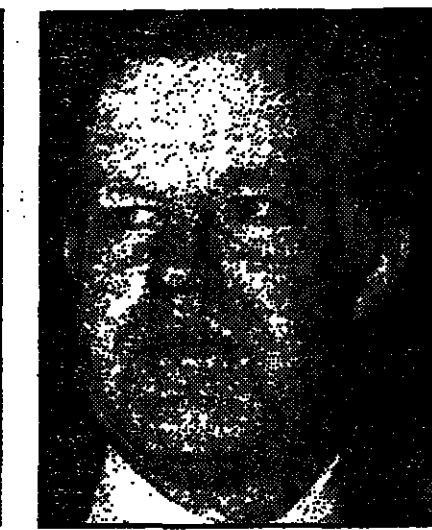
If he is overthrown while here, it will pose a fresh problem for the Government: what to do with the remains? But that problem, at any rate, has a clear and necessary solution. I am not exactly one for state vengeance or political trials; but any Ugandan Government which but any Ugandan Government which arose from the ashes of Amin's rule and which expressed a wish to have him back so that he could stand trial for his crimes against the Ugandan people, should have its request promptly acceded to by the British Government. And presently call the rest of the watch together, and thank God you are rid of a knave."

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London's evening papers: two into one may go



The men at the centre of the merger talks: from left Mr Maxwell Aitken, whose appointment as joint managing director of Beaverbrook Newspapers was announced last Friday; the Hon Vere Harmsworth; Mr Jocelyn Stevens, deputy chairman of Beaverbrook.



One might ask why the character of the *News* has not been changed before if it is to be changed now; why it has stayed as a middle-class suburban newspaper with East End undertones.

The story goes back to 1960 and could begin, "Once upon a time there were three newspapers: the *Standard*, a West End newspaper; the *Star*, an East End workers' newspaper; and the *News* for the suburbs." When Associated Newspapers bought the *Star* in 1960, it pushed the *News* into working-class territory, and it took on many of the *Star's* characteristics, since when it has found it difficult to shed its hybrid nature.

The emergence of the *Standard* with a positive West End and City character, during the 60s, tended to force the *News* into the inner suburbs, a different area all its own just to be distinguishable if not distinguished. It has cared about London and about culture, but it has never done it with the same assurance as the *News* acquired the reputation of its rival.

The *News-Standard* will have financial advantages denied to two separate journals. There are immediate cost savings in combined distribution and even more in joint production. The

abolition of rivalry will mean that some sanity can be brought to the expensive business of changing editions.

The one paper will also be able to cut down on promotions which too often bleed away revenue, especially where there are new marketing projects like the West London editions of the *News*. The Saturday *Evening News* will almost certainly go, but a Saturday edition is hard to cost. Besides the complex pay structure, there is a largely foreign readership for a Saturday paper among people who want only racing information in the morning and football results in the evening. Although there is obviously some overlap of readers between the daily and the Saturday, it is probably small, and six-day continuity is not considered essential by the hard-core newspaper readers in London. Thus the Saturday paper looks like an expensive luxury.

All round, there will have to be searching examination of present systems and editions if the new paper is to pay its way. Even when the paper finds its market, there will need to be continuing talks for cheaper production and new technology to make it profitable. With computerized composing and reasonable production manning, the paper will live and could

be profitable within a year or 18 months. Without such agreements, profit is anything but automatic.

The surprise is not the merger of the two evenings now, but that it did not happen seven or eight years ago—when I asked Vere Harmsworth why not, he shrugged and said "you tell me". In fact, both groups were close to rapprochement eight years ago, but a cooling-off period was agreed before final signature and it cooled both sides so much that negotiations died. The famous hostility of the heads of the two groups, visited upon the sons by their fathers, has prevented talks until the current illness of Beaverbrook's finances as much as of its figurehead, Sir Max Aitken.

Anecdotes of Sir Max's hostility, among by acronyms, abound in Fleet Street—like the one about a meeting set for mid-Channel. Non-sailor Vere Harmsworth kept the rendezvous. Sailor Max was belated and did not arrive. It is not enough to establish a new paper. The *Mail-Sketch* tabloid launch worked because the product was on target and money backed it. The *Express* tabloid launch in January was bedevilled by the *Daily Mirror's* success in a four-sided tabloid war with the Joe Haines revela-

tion, but there was something more, something indefinable which led to its loss of some 143,000 copies daily last month while the *Mail* gained about 103,000 (as compared with March, 1976).

The *Express* looked good, read well, but did not win readers. The paper's personality has to hit human chords and minds to do that, as the *Mail* did and as Associated hope the *News/Standard* will.

All through the 60s, second evening papers in Britain's big cities had to make with their rivals, ending in Glasgow at the back end of the decade when Beaverbrook sold the *Evening Citizen* to the enemy, Outram. The London merger comes late, and Londoners have long enjoyed an expensive bonus.

There is some bitterness among the *Standard* team because they produce a paper which will lose an estimated £2m this year, only half the *News* estimated loss. But the *News* parent has the money and prepared to offer a dowry.

The result should be more pages, more advertising, and a safer place on the streets of London. Oddly, the late Lord Beaverbrook always coveted the *Evening News*, desiring to some degree the third-place *Evening Standard* right up

until after the last war. He had for so many years chased the *Daily Mail* with the *Daily Express*, longing to overtake it but always lagging, despising lavish free gifts of life insurance and china (so much of the latter that he had to buy a potter), as well as holding the price down to a halfpenny when the *Mail* went to a penny during the First World War. When Beaverbrook bought the *Standard* from Sir Edward Hulton, virtually on the latter's deathbed, he began to chase the *News* with the *Standard*.

He had to wait until 1933 to bring the *Express* circulation up to 1,800,000 and see it pass the *Mail*. He had to wait until the *Standard* caught the *News*—even in the postwar 40s it sold about 760,000 compared with the *News's* 1,500,000. Competition between the two groups has always been more intense than commercialism could dictate, and Lord Beaverbrook's *News* was a long held share in the *Express* in case it ever caught up, just as he held on to *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Pictorial* shares until the 50s.

Students of mergers will know one thing—the first announcement of a sale flushes out other serious contenders, and that could happen now. Although the *News* has been turned down by any likely buyer in this country of in America. But *The Times* was about to be merged with the *Financial Times* and Lord Thomson bought it from under the very noses of Lazard's, the merchant bankers handling the deal, and gave it not only life but also falling losses. Just as Thomson, thinking he had Odhams Press magazines under his belt, lost to what is now the International Publishing Corporation. Rupert Murdoch rushed across the water to buy *The Sun* from death, a waste of fate at the hands of other buyers. Those who have already announced a lack of interest in the *Standard* could come back. One thing is sure. The value of the *Standard*, or of the *News*, as it is, can only fall as its misfortunes are aired and a final deal is delayed.

Sheila Black

The Times Diary

So do we need the Think Tank?

vital one is laughable and malicious.

I was struck by the similarity between the chips and the reasoning, as reported in *The Guardian*, and my own critique. Compare these two extracts, first from *The Guardian* report, on the subject of the EEC:

"Much of the business of the Community falls within the responsibilities of the domestic departments. Ministers of Transport, Energy, Industry and the like go backwards and forwards to Brussels accompanied by specialized officials. Why then, the review staff has been wondering, is it necessary to maintain a professional diplomatic service?"

And this is what I wrote: "When a Foreign Secretary goes abroad nowadays he is invariably accompanied by officials from ministries relevant to the concerns of the country he is visiting. It would be a much more efficient arrangement if, say, a man from the Ministry of Agriculture, wanting to talk about Polish eggs, were to get straight on the phone to his opposite number in Warsaw."

It occurs to me that the Think Tank have spent over a year, at public expense, reaching a conclusion to which I had already come several years ago, without anyone calling me exceedingly clever or making remarks about my eyes. Somebody now should start an inquiry into whether we need a Think Tank.

HABDRESSING CASH & CARRY

This service, so much more convenient than leaving it there and having to call back, was discovered by the Rev Peter Morris, of Gillingham, Kent.

Off days

The company chief who, as I reported recently, complained to me about an unsatisfactory meal in the pricey Rib Room restaurant at the Carlton Tower Hotel, where a cheeseburger without the chips cost an astonishing £4.75, has been mollified. He has declined an invitation to a free meal from the assistant general manager, but says he is now willing to go back and try again.

Others do not forgive so easily. One man who claims to have lived and died in North America, the Middle East and the Far East has written to say that "the worst meal that I have ever had was at the Carlton Tower Hotel". The food was so bad, he says, that the manager did not charge for it, explaining away the poor quality by revealing that "the chef was in a bad mood".

The managing director of a

large public relations company says he recently lunched a Japanese guest in the Chelsea Room at the hotel and came away with the impression of a course meal for three with a bill of just under £40. "The food", he writes, "was poorly cooked and everything seemed to be swimming in butter."

At the end of the meal his party was presented with market research forms, and he was embarrassed to find that his Japanese guest, in filling out a section asking where he came from, was offered the choice of UK, USA, Europe, Middle East, "other", and was obliged to tick the last.

"I was surprised at the quality and price of the restaurant", concludes the PR man, "because I have organized many functions in the hotel over the years, and have generally been satisfied at the quality of the service, food and prices. It was at least five years since I had been to the Chelsea Room and I don't care if it is another 25 before I go again."

Gushing

It was ironic that, as the Norwegians were grappling with a potential environmental disaster at the Ekofisk oilfield, another North Sea operator should be picking up a gold medal for its anti-pollution measures. Senior staff of British Petroleum were at Fishmongers' Hall in London yesterday to receive the premier award of the Angling Foundation for keeping the sea and rivers clean.

The foundation, a consortium of fishing tackle makers and other bodies with an interest in angling, gave BP their medal for its four platforms in the Forties Field, the submarine pipeline to Cruden Bay, the land

pipeline to the refinery at Grangemouth and its other installations in the Firth of Forth. The citation said gushingly that BP "went well beyond the legal requirements."

Kenneth Mackay, parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, presented the awards. His responsibility for oil slicks begins when they reach the shore, and he told his audience that he alerted local authorities all along the east coast, lest the Ekofisk slick should come this way, and had been finding out if enough dispersant chemical was ready to deal with it. It was, And BP make it.

Geoffrey Larmine, general manager of BP's environmental control centre and one of the team collecting the medal, thought the Ekofisk blowout was a failure of equipment or human error. But a major advance since the last great oil spill near British waters, the Torrey Canyon wreck, was that oil-dispersant chemicals were now about 1,000 times less toxic, Larmine claimed. He added that BP would be reviewing their safety procedures in the light of the accident.

Big red

P. H. Simplicissimus, my economics and energy correspondent, reports:

Government technicians were working round the clock last night in an effort to stem a possible leak of gigantic proportion in Stage Three of the pay policy. Although cold water direct from Whitehall is being poured on hopes of massive pay increases, there are growing fears of an explosion of unimaginable proportions, leading to runaway inflation. Denis "Red" Healey, (so

called because he was once in the Communist Party) and Smarmy "Boots" Callaghan, two of the world's most experienced bombthrowers, have been flown in to try to contain the blow-out as that which now threatens.

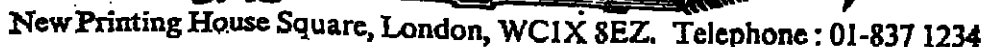
The pair are a product of the old, rough school of British politics, belying the sleek image of the lounge-floored offices of their headquarters in Whitehall. Though wealthy men, both are prepared to leave their lives of comfort and plunge into the dirty and dangerous business of shop-floor bargaining.

When I asked him what drives him, yesterday, daredevil Healey threw down his wide-brimmed fedora and drawled: "When it comes to the crunch, a man has to do what he has to do. I have this kind of primal urge which drives me to ever more daring feats."

Later he made his first visit to one of the sites of the possible explosion in Scarborough. "It is not just a test of skill and sagacity," he said. "It is a test of our ability to meet the challenge of the modern world. It may be hell, but we have to carry on." Experts, however, remained sceptical, as usual.

In Conan Doyle's story, *The Blue Carbuncle*, written at the turn of the century, Sherlock Holmes gives a boy half a crown to insert advertisements in all the London evening newspapers. There were 14

PHS



Civil servants
From Mr. J. N. F. Davenport
 Dear Your photograph on yesterday's paper (April 21) of civil servants at work on an irrigation project in Laos shows that the profession is the same all over the world. Of the 150,000 or so people in the photograph, it appears to be doing any old work. The men are leaning on their hovels, surveying the scene, or perhaps discussing the next move. Perhaps the photographer caught them waiting for a tea break?
 Yours faithfully,
 JOHN DAVENPORT,
 61 Hilbury Road,
 Wokingham,
 Surrey.
 April 22.

MASTERMAN
the Liberal cause

US upset British
hopes for new
Gatt multi-fibre
deal, page 18

Japanese reject Mr Dell's 'double your British imports' demand

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, April 25

Britain's latest demand that Japan should double United Kingdom imports within two years to rectify the imbalance in trade between the two countries was described as "unrealistic and unfeasible" in Tokyo today.

Dashing the hopes of Mr Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, who laid down the United Kingdom's two-year timetable for a meeting with Japanese business leaders in Tokyo last week, a senior Japanese official told *The Times* today: "We do not think it is possible to meet this demand."

After seriously studying Mr Dell's statement it is not feasible to meet this target within two years, given the state of our economy."

The official, Mr Fumio Murakami, director of the Japanese foreign ministry's bureau for Western Affairs, said: "It is unrealistic under the circumstances. We can only double our imports from the United Kingdom if we double our exports to the rest of the world."

Outlining the rationale behind Japan's arguments, Mr Murakami contested Mr Dell's assertion that Japan was not adhering to the principle of free trade. (Mr Dell pointed out last week that Japan's import ratio of manufactured goods was 20 per cent, compared with the 50 per cent of other developed nations.)

In reply, Mr Murakami raised a dilemma: Japan lacked all forms of resources and was forced to divert most of its import spending towards raw materials. "For example out of Japan's total imports of \$65,000m (132,333m) in 1976, roughly one-third was spent on mineral fuels," he said.

He went on to declare that Japan's import ratio of manufactured goods, as against total imports, amounted to 30 per cent in 1973 but had declined to 20 per cent in 1975 after the sharp rise in the price of crude oil.

"Nevertheless the ratio increased to 21.5 per cent in 1976 and the ministry for international trade expects the ratio to rise to 30 per cent in 1982." Replying to Mr Dell's assertion that the United Kingdom also lacked raw materials but permitted an import ratio of

manufactured goods in the vicinity of 50 per cent, Mr Murakami claimed that Japan remained isolated from other developed countries.

Since the United Kingdom is part of the European Community and it has close relations with other industrialized nations, there is a free interplay in the exchange of manufactured goods. Nearly 35 per cent of Britain's foreign trade last year was with members of the Community, 15 per cent with other Western European countries and 12 per cent with North America.

The government official went on to remind Mr Dell that 47 per cent of Tokyo's exports were delivered to developed nations and 40 per cent of her imports were received from developed nations. (Significantly there was no mention that a large measure of Japan's imports of raw materials and food are derived from Canada and the United States.)

"Because of our distance from other industrialized nations, Japan has developed the method of importing raw materials and manufacturing sophisticated goods ourselves," the official said.

"The ratio of United Kingdom's total volume of trade to the gross national product is 10 per cent. In Japan's case it is 20 per cent. Our imports comprise mainly food and raw materials and we have little room to import manufactured goods."

"If we can increase the total volume of trade to a similar level, then the volume of manufactured imports will be larger," Mr Murakami said.

Reacting to Mr Dell's suggestion that Mr Murakami faced similar problems, Mr Murakami agreed that Britain also lacked raw materials.

"But in the case of the United Kingdom, you can export twice as much in relation to terms and can therefore import more manufactured goods. In Japan's case we will have to export twice as much to be able to import the large quantity of manufactured goods, as suggested by Mr Dell."

"Therefore the Government does not think that it is feasible that Japan's imports from the United Kingdom can double within two years," he said.

Business Letters, page 18

Mr Varley declines to give pledge on Parsons

By David Felton

It was becoming clear last night that the Government is facing a very difficult decision over the ordering of the £600m Drax B power station, with the possibility of a revolt by its own backbenchers and industrial action by power generation workers.

With the strength of rumours growing that the Government had approved the takeover of the C. A. Parsons part of the Reynolds Parsons group by Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC as part of an agreement for the Drax B order to be placed with GEC, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, failed to reassure his backbench critics.

He refused to give an assurance in the Commons yesterday to Mr Mike Thomas, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, that he would underwrite a pledge by Parsons that there would be no takeover without the agreement of the Parsons' unions.

And late last night Mr Thomas, along with other Labour MPs with power generation factories in their constituencies, came away from a meeting with Mr Varley and his junior ministers still unhappy at the Government's stance.

Mr Thomas said after the meeting: "Nothing Mr Varley told me in any way reassured me. I believe the Government has embarked on the course I feared, but I now hope that the representations that have been made will persuade the Government to change its mind."

The feeling in Westminster last night was that the issue will now have to go back to the Cabinet for further discussion. Unions at Parsons want a national turbine generator company with Parsons and GEC as equal partners and the National Enterprise Board holding a 20 per cent stake.

Parsons has renewed its pledge of no merger talks without union agreement and unions representing the 6,000 workers at the Newcastle works are opposed to any deal which sees the company taken over by GEC.

Opposition to a quick deal with GEC also came yesterday from the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union. Mr Frank Chapple, its general secretary, spoke to Mr Varley by telephone and urged him to postpone any decision until the matter had been discussed by the TUC fuel and power committee.

Parliamentary reports, page 4

Sixth reduction by clearing banks this year will aid industry

Base borrowing rate down to 9 pc

By John Whitmore

Financial Correspondent
For the sixth time this year the cost of bank borrowing has been reduced as a result of yesterday's decision by the leading banks to lower their base rates from 9½ to 9 per cent.

Yesterday's move by the banks, which has been widely expected after Friday's cut in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate (to 8½ per cent), means that the banks have now reduced their base rates by 5 per cent since January 1.

The latest reduction in base rates will bring the cost of borrowing for blue chip industrial borrowers down to 10 per cent. Most personal overdrafts will now cost 12 to 14 per cent.

In addition, the Midlands is also cutting its rates on personal loans. The flat rate comes down from 3 to 2½ per cent, cutting the true rate of interest on, for instance, a two-year loan from 19.7 to 17.7 per cent. True rates on similar loans from the

other major clearing banks vary between 16.7 and 18.7 per cent. The further the customer's cost of borrowing rises, the more likely it becomes that the banks will attempt to offset the loss of income by increasing some of their other charges.

So far, the squeeze on bank profitability that generally goes hand in hand with falling interest rates has been mitigated by, first, the fact that the cost of money market funds has been falling even faster than base rates, and second, by the move by the banks to widen the margin between the rates they charge to borrowers and the rates they offer on deposits of less than £10,000.

Since the period when interest rates were at their peak in the final quarter of last year this margin has widened from 3 to 4½ per cent—the 4½ per cent margin being maintained by yesterday's decision to cut deposit rates by a further

1 per cent to 4½ per cent.

But the general assumption in most banks now is that even if further scope appears for cutting lending rates over the coming weeks, it will be almost impossible to cut deposit rates further without risking substantial switching of savings from the banks to the building societies.

As it is, the building societies are already considerably more attractive to the saver, offering 7 per cent net of standard rate tax, equivalent to 10.7 per cent gross. The banks will doubtless be hoping that it will not be too long before the building societies decide that their monthly investment inflow is sufficient to permit a significant cut in the 7 per cent rate.

In the money markets yesterday three month Treasury bills continued to trade at a level, which, if maintained throughout the week, would point to the possibility of a further small cut in MLR on Friday.

Derek Harris writes: Mr Clifford Sellick, chairman of the Bridgewater Building Society, speaking at the society's annual meeting, yesterday, said that perhaps some of those who were so vociferous in suggesting a decline in interest rates for borrowers would one day tell them how they could pay investors market rates and lend at rates substantially lower.

The country could not have it both ways, he said. If building society rates for investors were pitched too low, incoming funds declined and there would be complaints of a mortgage famine.

Mr Sellick said it had to be remembered that the investor's capital may, over the years, have been eroded because interest did not keep pace with inflation. The borrower in the same period would have seen the value of his house increase

Leyland chief's 'fighting' talk as review document goes to NEB

By Clifford Webb

Sir Richard Dobson, chairman and Mr Alex Park, chief executive of British Leyland yesterday personally delivered the Government-ordered review study of the state-controlled motor company's operations.

The study, which has taken just a month to complete, is understood to contain a unanimous recommendation from BL's board that the proposed £200m project to build a new Mini should be carried out with minor cost saving modifications.

It also sets out a number of choices ranging from a switch from the new Mini in favour of the proposed LC10 medium sedan, to the complete abandonment of the Mini project and the closure of assembly operations at Longbridge and Cowley.

Clearly recognizing the explosive nature of this latter threat to 40,000 jobs Mr Park was at pains to assure employees that the board would be fighting to retain as much of the existing set up as possible.

In *British Leyland Mirror*, the group's newspaper, he said: "The vital thing is to plead our case. It is one thing to write the report, but persuading people to accept our recommendations is another and we have a lot of persuading to do."

He said that better production in the last few weeks—since the disastrous toolmakers' strike—meant that Leyland had reached the first of three milestones set by the Government.

"We have got back to work. We have brought production to the required level (understood to be 20,000 cars a week) and now we must attain the second objective—that of sustaining production."

"If we can do that it is going to have an enormous effect. If output is not sustained then we have a big battle on our hands." He warned employees that Leyland's credibility was the main stumbling block. "We have to face the fact that our credibility is crumbling at the seams. I appreciate the worry that so many employees have about the future but we must improve our credibility and everyone must play their part."

Lord Ryder and his team are expected to maintain daily contact with BL executives as they prepare their own recommendations for Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. This stage is expected to last about a fortnight.

Mr Varley's officials have been busy over the past month seeking the views and advice of the motor industry executives outside Leyland. They include Mr George Turnbull, the former managing director of BL who has just returned from a three-year contract with a South Korean motor group.

Our Industrial Editor writes: Creditors of British Leyland are to rank above the National Enterprise Board under the arrangements for supplying £100m of loan capital to the car group while the review of its future investment programme continues.

The NEB's agreement with Leyland shows that the £100m is being made available under terms that provide for repayment instalments between 1982 and 1997 at interest rates ranging between 14½ per cent and 15½ per cent. However, the board's rights to the repayment of principal and interest are "postponed to the rights of all other creditors of the company."

Presumably that portion of the money being supplied under Government direction from Industry Act funds will follow the terms of the general NEB agreement.

Union warning: Union leaders will tell the Government tomorrow that Leyland Cars must be allowed to develop its own engineering design and tooling if it is not to face disaster. The engineering union's staff section (TASS) will present Mr Leslie Huxford, Minister for Industry, with a report stressing the importance of Leyland Cars breaking its dependence on importing such facilities from Western Europe and the United States.

1300 to leave German steel plants

Voelklings, West Germany, April 25—Stahlwerke Roehling-Burbach GmbH will lay off 1,300 employees this year, partly as a result of the partial closure of two steel-making plants, a company spokesman said.

The company is jointly owned by Arbed Acieries Reunies de Burmah-eich-Dudelange SA of Luxembourg and Roehling Industrie Verwaltung of Saarbrücken.

Of the total workforce of 20,000, 400 will be dismissed, 400 will leave voluntarily and 500 will be pensioned off, the spokesman said.

The steelworks has worked short-time in different sectors from 1975, but this is now concentrated in the ordinary low carbon steel sector.

At Easter there was a near shutdown which will be repeated in August for the company summer holiday because of the situation in the steel industry.

The spokesman said the company expects to show a loss in 1976, but lower than 1975's DM 138m (about £34m) loss on turnover of DM 1,750m and steel production of 249 million tonnes crude and 1.91 million tonnes rolled. Final 1976 figures have not yet been released.—Reuter.

UK in joint £140m deal to sort out Arab rubbish

Recruitment has started for the army of more than 2,000 workers, which together with 300 dustcarts, 200,000 dustbins and other equipment, are needed to take on what is described as the "world's largest public services project".

The contract, awarded earlier this year to a partnership of Pritchard Services Group, Britain's largest industrial cleaner, and Waste Management Inc of Chicago, is to take over rubbish collection and disposal for Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

Valued at around £140m, the five-year renewable contract is almost worth as much as the entire British contract cleaning industry and is the biggest it has ever encountered. Wage bills in the heavily labour intensive cleaning trade are generally estimated to account for more than 50 per cent of costs.

Pritchard, which is responsible for organizing the labour end of the Riyadh deal, expects to need about 2,000 recruits by the end of the year.

Of these 60 will be managers, mostly from Britain, and the remainder, Pritchard, which already has wide experience of handling mixed nationality workers for other, smaller cleaning contracts such as Heathrow Airport, is looking to Egypt, Pakistan and South Korea.

Top of its immediate list are managers to recruit and train (salary £8,000 to £13,000 tax free) who are prepared to travel and have knowledge of Arabic or Urdu.

Also under way are the vast back-up services of housing, medical services, and insurance needed for a workforce of this size. Facilities are needed for the people and for the £15m worth of equipment. Maintenance workshops with adequate spare parts will be installed to keep the fleet of specialized cleansing vehicles on the streets.

One of the early tasks is to work out the most suitable refuse containers for householders, street markets and other readers and to organise the appropriate frequency for collection. A special new waste tip is being built for disposal of the refuse.

According to Mr Peter Pritchard, the company's chairman, this is the first time that a city has contracted out its entire cleaning system. Previously Riyadh, which has a population of about 600,000, had run its own cleansing department.

Patricia Tisdall

Sir Eric prepares his reply

By John Brennan

Sir Eric Miller spent much of yesterday with his lawyers, Oppenheimer, Nathan & Vandyk, hammering out the final details of a letter to the shareholders of Peachey Property Corporation.

Sir Eric, accused on Friday of misleading his fellow directors over expenditure of £282,000, plans to fight the board's call for his resignation at the group's annual meeting next month.

It is understood that Sir Eric is to take the advice of John Addy Associates, the public relations group, in his campaign to be re-elected and that his letter to shareholders refuting criticisms made by the company and breaking his two-week silence about the boardroom row will be published early this week.

A spokesman for Peachey confirmed yesterday that the board would be required to give Sir Eric "the courtesy of a reply" to his fellow directors' call for his dismissal and that the group could arrange for circulation of his letter.

Apart from a brief statement rejecting the call for his resignation, Sir Eric has not yet commented on revelations in Peachey's accounts that he had repaid over £200,000 of personal debts to the group, or Friday's claim that he had misled the board over the expenditure of a further £282,000.

Lord Maiz, Peachey's chairman, and Barclays Merchant Bank, recently appointed as financial advisers to the group, aim to have support from sufficient institutional shareholders to defend Sir Eric's attempt to remain on the board.

The shares rose 3p to 47½p yesterday on renewed speculation interest, despite the board's conspicuous denials of any takeover approach.

Wall St closes at low for year

Wall Street dropped sharply yesterday, closing at its low for the year. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 12.47 points to 914.60 on trading of 20,440,000 shares.

Institutional selling of leading blue chip glamour stocks led the decline for the third consecutive session. Reasons for the selling included inflation worries, concern over tighter credit conditions

US supports boost for IMF resources

From Frank Vogel

US Economics Correspondent

Washington, April 25—The United States administration fully supports the creation of a new facility to strengthen the financial resources of the International Monetary Fund.

It also supports a substantial rise in IMF member country quotas, but it opposes a new allocation of special drawing rights (SDR) "at this time."

Mr Anthony Solomon, Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs at the United States Treasury, said these would be the main topics of detailed discussion at the meetings here on Thursday of the IMF's interim committee of finance ministers.

He suggested that final agreements are unlikely this week and he noted that boosting IMF reserves is not a "desperate or urgent" matter.

Mr Solomon told a press conference that the IMF can still draw some SDR 2,500m under the General Arrangements to Borrow and that its resources

will be strengthened by some SDR 5,000m to SDR 6,000m when new quota rises take effect, which is now likely to happen by the end of this year at the latest.

He noted that negotiations on a further quota rise are still at an early stage and must be completed by next February. The minimum proposal made by some countries is for a 20 to 25 per cent quota increase.

Most countries now take the view that a quota rise of 75 to 100 per cent, as suggested by Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the IMF, is more than is necessary, while the United States "is open-minded and flexible on this question."

Mr Solomon said a series of international discussions have now taken place about the need for a financial support facility for the IMF, as proposed by Dr Witteveen.

The treasury official outlined the main features of the facility that already seem to be widely agreed upon and here, he pointed out, with regard to its size, that "SDR 8,000m to SDR 14,000m is a realistic range in my opinion."

Three held over Swiss bank losses

Zurich, April 25—Three executives of the Chassio, Tessin, subsidiary of the Credit Suisse Bank, were held by police today for alleged involvement in a financial scandal, according to reliable sources.

They said the three men, earlier suspended from their jobs by the bank's central management, were faced with charges of breach of Swiss banking legislation.

The Credit Suisse Bank meanwhile issued a statement in which it said money deposited with its Chassio subsidiary had been kept outside the bank's accounts and illegally placed with a Liechtenstein financing company known as Texon, which had invested the funds.

The statement said the Credit Suisse Bank had taken over the assets of some companies in which Texon held a stake. But it neither confirmed nor denied that the fraud involved a total amount of 250m Swiss francs, as reported in informed banking circles here.

In brief

Washington forecasts lower growth rate

Washington's Office of Management and Budget has officially confirmed changes in the Administration's economic forecasts that government economists have been privately indicating over the last month. The forecasts show that the immediate economic prospects are slightly worse than was previously forecast in early February.

Real gross national product is seen as rising by 4.9 per cent this year (down 0.5 per cent from earlier forecasts) and by 5.6 per cent in 1978 (up 0.2 per cent). Unemployment is seen as averaging 7.2 per cent and 6.4 per cent in 1977 and 1978 respectively, which is a shade higher than earlier forecasts.

Inflation is officially forecast at 6.7 per cent this year and 5.6 per cent next year. The current fiscal year's budget deficit is now set at \$20,000m (about £11,765m) below the February forecast level at \$48,700m.

other grades will go up by 2.1p a gallon (2.5p at the pump).

Derv prices are going up 2.5p a gallon (plus 8 per cent VAT) and burning oil and gas/diesel oil both of which are used for heating and industrial purposes will go up by 2p a gallon.

Light fuel oil prices will rise by 3p a gallon but the increase on medium and heavy fuel oil will be contained at 1.5p.

Fears of shipyard cut

About 150 shipyard workers employed by Robb Caledon, the Scottish east coast shipbuilding group, face redundancy next week because of the company's lack of orders. Management and union officials were yesterday involved in talks over the phasing of the redundancies which will principally affect those workers who were until recently covered by the Government's temporary employment subsidy.

Dismissal pay warning

Unfair dismissal awards could cost employers £50m this year it was claimed yesterday. Employers' Protection Insurance Services, of Wallington, Surrey, made the claim when announcing insurance awards made by industrial tribunals and employment appeal tribunals. It also covers conciliation proceedings and legal fees.

Barrow shareholders vote for NEB £3m deal

By Derek Harris

A Barrow Hepburn Group (BHG) shareholders' meeting yesterday agreed to a prospective deal under which the National Enterprise Board plans to give £3m support to the company's tanking interests.

The meeting was held against a background of legal action against the NEB by a group of other tankers which is questioning the legality of the deal. Now the shareholders have backed the agreement, the NEB would be expected fully to complete its side of the deal by next Monday. This leaves the tankers group with a big decision. The group has issued an originating summons to seek a declaration from the High

Court that the proposed investment is illegal. The NEB has accepted service of the summons and has said it will not complete the agreement with BHG until after Friday.

The group will now have to decide whether to take the main option for delaying the agreement's completion after Monday by seeking an injunction to restrain the NEB's completion.

The group believes the deal, under which the NEB plans to buy for £500,000 half the equity of a new company, British Tankers' Products, would favour the BHG tanking interests incorporated in BTP to the detriment of the rest of the industry.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 173.20-0.50
The FT index: 419.0-3.3

Rises

Farnell Elect 12p to 12½p
Hawthorne Est 6p to 6½p
Hays Wat 5p to 5½p
Norwest Holst 11p to 74p

Falls

Allen H & Ross 10p to 39p
Aitobell 6p to 140p
Boat H 8p to 11½p
BP 8p to 9½p
Centre Hotels 8p to 38p
Dunlop 5p to 100p
Equity & Law 6p to 120p
Glaxo 7p to 47½p
Long Chem Ind 5p to 35p
Killinghall 5p to 160p

Equities drifted back. Gil-Edged stocks had a quiet session. Dollar premium 122.0 per cent (effective rate 46.007 per cent). Sterling was 6 p up at \$1.7170. The effective rate was 61.7 per cent.

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Rowton Hotels 12p to 12½p
Thermal Sys 9p to 11½p
Utd Scientific 6p to 20p
Warren Plant 7p to 17½p
Modern Eng 2p to 38p
Mowlem J 6p to 110p
MTD (Mangula) 5p to 70p
Richmonds W 4p to 48p
Royal 6p to 200p
Shell 6p to 508p
Storer Bros 8p to 40p
Sun Alliance 8p to 40p
Taylor Woodrow 6p to 210p
Welkom 5p to 155p

Gold was \$1.25 an ounce down at \$148.625.
SDR-5 was 1.16069 on Monday while SDR-4 was 0.675448.
Commodities: Coffee prices went into retreat. Reuter's index was at 1735.6 (previous 1735.8).
Reports, pages 21, 22 and 23

THE POUND

Bank	buys	sells
Australia S	1.61	1.56
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr	64.75	61.75
Canada S	1.84	1.79
Denmark Kr	10.57	10.17
Finland Mmk	7.20	6.35
France F	8.75	8.43
Germany Dmk	4.23	4.01
Greece Dr	65.00	62.00
Hongkong S	8.25	7.80
Italy Lr	154.00	148.50
Japan Yn	500.00	475.00
Netherlands Gld	4.41	4.19
Norway Kr	6.34	6.38
Portugal Esc	67.75	64.00
S Africa Rd	2.05	1.90
Spain Pes	121.50	113.50
Sweden Kr	7.75	7.47
Switzerland Fr	4.50	4.28
US \$	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.00	31.75

Notes for small denomination bank notes only. Anglo-Italian, Anglo-Spanish, Anglo-Swedish, Anglo-French, Anglo-Greek and other foreign currency business.

Courts 20
Hill Samuel 18
Lloyds Bank 18
Midland Bank 20
National Westminster Bank 20
Bank

Hopes rise for peace talks at Halewood

Hopes of a solution to the 10-day-old strike at Ford's Halewood plant were raised last night after day-long peace talks.

The discussions were adjourned until today after a company spokesman said clarification had been reached on certain points in the dispute procedure which sparked off the stoppage.

The strike has halted all production and cost £6,000. Escorted worth £12m.

It began after 10 craftsmen were suspended for one day for leaving work early without permission.

A company spokesman could not say whether there had been any wider issue of separate negotiations on pay and conditions which is being urged nationally by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Only the transmission shop is still working at the Liverpool plant. The gearboxes manufactured there are being stockpiled.

At Jaguar, Leyland has had to lay off more than 5,000 workers in its car assembly and components plants because of a strike by 80 internal drivers, who are demanding reclassification into a higher pay grade.

At the weekend the striking drivers held a meeting at which they decided to continue their stoppage, but they are to meet again today.

Carter stance upsets British hopes of switch on fibres pact

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

European hopes of a change in the United States attitude towards the renegotiation of the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement were dashed in London yesterday by a senior official of the Carter Administration.

Mr Robert Strauss, special representative for trade negotiations, said: "We seek a renewal without change of the MFA." The agreement was necessary because "if there were nothing how do we go about solving the problem of textile trade?"

In the past few weeks there have been signs, in the face of growing American textile industry and worker concern, that the United States was shifting its ground and would support,

in part, the EEC's attempts to achieve a fundamental renegotiation of the textiles pact.

Meanwhile, strong demands that the Government stand firm on plans to prevent the disruption of the European clothing market by cheap imports were made yesterday by the United Kingdom clothing industry.

The British Clothing Industry Council for Europe called on the Government to take a tough stand in the forthcoming negotiations in Geneva on the arrangement. The arrangement was introduced three years ago to promote the orderly development of trade in textiles between the developed and developing worlds.

Clothing industries throughout Europe and particularly Britain have seen their share of their domestic markets steadily eroded by the inflow

of imports from low cost developing countries.

But in a statement yesterday the organization insisted that the EEC's negotiating mandate at the talks must include proposals to end the danger of cumulative disruption of the EEC clothing market.

At the heart of the industry's concern is the worry that markets for individual products can be disrupted by the large number of suppliers, many of whom may individually supply only relatively small volumes. Under the terms of the present MFA the smaller suppliers cannot be dealt with.

Britain and France have so far taken the lead in insisting that a solution must be found, with broad agreement from most other member states apart from West Germany and Denmark.

Ezra call for flexibility on employee participation

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board and the British Institute of Management, yesterday warned the Government that employee participation, if it was to be effective, could not be imposed.

Delivering the Standard Telephones and Cables communications lecture at the Savoy Hotel in London, Sir Derek said that industry should be encouraged to choose from the variety of patterns of employee participation now emerging.

The Bullock report had been published at a time when industry was already making considerable progress in participation arrangements in a variety of ways.

The restrictive terms of reference and conclusions of the Bullock report did not reflect this and that was why the BLM had opted for a flexible solution.

Sir Derek said that his study of the different examples of participation led him to a number of conclusions.

The first point that emerged was the variety of approaches. "It is undoubtedly the case that participation arrangements have succeeded most where they have been carefully and consciously tailored to meet the circumstances of the particular enterprise."

The second point was that the most meaningful forms of participation had been developed at plant level. "The nearer one gets to the workplace, the more effective is the pulling power of involvement."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sauce for the Japanese goose

From Mr R. A. Ashworth
Sir, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's forthright remarks to her Japanese hosts on the subject of the Anglo-Japanese trade imbalance brought me sharply into focus what has been said by every politician, representative of industry to have visited Tokyo over the course of the past seven years. It must, by now, be a rather well-worn record but it would appear that the Japanese still do not recognize the time.

I must, at this point, declare a prejudice as one who has spent over seven years in Japan, primarily associated with the import of British goods into that country. In that period the British community in Tokyo listened as each successive visitor forcibly expressed concern at the continuing trade deficit with Japan and, equally forcibly, rejected any suggestion of unilateral restrictions on the flow of Japanese goods into this country.

The conventional wisdom demanded that we pursue agreements for voluntary restraint and orderly marketing. At the same time, the DTI have offered sterling support to exporters and it is undoubtedly true that, but for their exhortations, the trade gap would have been even larger. Yet at the end of the day we still have a £350m trade deficit and a massive increase in the flow of Japanese goods into this country.

In your edition of March 30 you published a letter signed jointly by Mr Hamish McGhie of the DTI's Exports to Japan Unit and Mr Rino Tanaka, advising of the services of an Anglo-Japanese export advisory board. While the prospective exporter should obviously avail himself of any assistance he should be fully aware such bodies are, in Japanese eyes, entirely unofficial and serve only as a public relations exercise to staunch further criticism of Japan's protectionist attitudes.

The trade areas where a significant volume increase in exports could be made—for example, foodstuffs, ethical pharmaceuticals, agricultural

chemicals and computers—are all still meticulously protected by a bewildering maze of regulations and restrictions which virtually force the foreign company into a disadvantageous and frequently unprofitable partnership. Despite Mr Milward's assertions (*The Times*, April 21) there is no way that present practice could be described as "minor" irritants.

I now believe that the most effective way of obliging the Japanese to dismantle their own protective barriers would be to deny them ready access to our own markets. A clear, undeniable case exists for either the immediate imposition of stringent quotas on all Japanese goods or the levying of draconian levels of import duty. Were the boot on the other foot, the Japanese Government would have no hesitation in taking similar action with the absolute justification that such measures were necessary for the protection of their own industry.

Perhaps Mr Dell might note that what is sauce for the goose is equally nourishing for the gander.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ASHWORTH,
31 Little Green,
Alderbrook,
Hampshire,
April 21.

From Mr P. Grey
Sir, I agree with your comment (first leader, April 19) that "in the coming decades our relations with Japan are bound to be closer and to matter even more than our relations with China". In recent years there has been a growth in non-European studies in schools and colleges but, so far, Japan has been largely ignored despite the enormous importance of that country in the world's economy.

In their letter of April 21 Mr Roderick MacFarquhar and Mr John Roper rightly note that it would be to Japan's advantage to promote Japanese studies in Europe as they have in the United States. However, I feel that we in Britain should also make a greater

effort to study what Herman Kahn has aptly called "the emerging Japanese super-power".

Having taught Japanese history for several years now, I have been struck by the interest of students in the subject but, at the same time, I have been dismayed by their almost total lack of initial knowledge of a nation that, like it or not, is playing an increasingly important role in our economic affairs.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GREY,
Senior Lecturer,
Department of Economics,
Bedford College of Higher Education,
Bedford,
April 21.

From Mr R. Storey
Sir, The plea by Messrs MacFarquhar and Roper (April 21), that Japanese businessmen should consider allocating funds for the development of Japanese studies, may have given your readers the impression that, so far as Britain is concerned, the business world in Japan has displayed not the smallest sign of imaginative philanthropy.

This is not so. The Mitsui Company, for example, has in recent years made a number of generous grants to Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham and other universities for the development of Japanese studies.

Moreover, it may not be generally known that, in 1973, the Prime Minister of Japan gave this country, specifically for the promotion of Japanese studies, the sum of £1m. At least a substantial proportion of that sum was raised from business circles in Japan.

It should be pointed out that the Japan Foundation, very active in furthering Japanese studies not only in Britain but also in France and Germany, acquired much of its initial capital thanks to the goodwill of the business world as well as the Japanese Government.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD STOREY,
Far East Centre,
St Antony's College,
Oxford,
April 22.

ICL mid-range sales 'exceed expectations'

Sales of the ICL Model 2960 computer, the medium-sized member of the 2960 family, have "exceeded expectations" since its announcement in March, 1976, the company has reported.

A total of 55 of the 2960 systems together worth £45m have been ordered, of which 14 systems worth £12.5m are for export. Eighteen of the machines, worth £15.5m, are for customers in the public sector.

Among recent 2960 orders are a £750,000 machine for the management services division of Vickers Engineering Group at Newcastle; a £250,000 unit for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council; and a £1.1m dual system for NMW Computers, the Manchester stockbroking computer bureau.

To simplify the transition to the Model 2960 for users of earlier ICL computers (1900 series and System 4), the company has introduced new operating software known as Direct

Computer news

Machine Environment (DME). This enables a 1900 or System 4 user to transfer his workload directly onto a 2960 with only minor changes to his programmes.

Other recent ICL developments have involved machines both larger and smaller than the 2960. At the large end of the scale, the European Space Agency has decided to continue using ICL 2980 computers to handle data from the forthcoming Meteosat weather satellite programme. A switch to IBM equipment had earlier been a possibility.

At the small end, Nouvelles Galeries and Bazar de l'Hotel de Ville, a group of French department stores, has ordered 540 point-of-sale terminals and 19 ICL System Ten computers. These are ex-Singer products

which are now being actively marketed by ICL following its 1976 Singer Business Machines acquisition.

Data Logic expands

In a reorganization designed to handle expanding specialist activities, Data Logic, Greenford, Middlesex, has split its finance division into separate banking and insurance divisions; and has recruited Mr John McNeil to develop three new functions within the company's technical support group.

The software house's three new technical areas are concerned with computer networks, distributed systems and microcomputers. Mr McNeil, formerly with Logica and before that with Seicon, will be concerned with these functions, and will have special responsibility for computer networks.

New Geest service

Geest Computer Services, which operates bureaux in Cambridge, Birmingham and Peter-

borough, is establishing a new business unit which will provide and install microcomputer-based business systems. This will run in parallel with the bureaux.

Mr Charles Cox, managing director of Geest Computer Services, is moving to Cambridge Instrument Company as finance director and deputy chief executive. His role at Geest is being assumed by Mr Philip Wainwright, chief executive of the company.

New Systime model

Systime, Leeds, have announced a more powerful model in the company's range of business computer systems. Known as the Series 6000, it is based on the Digital Equipment PDP 11/60 processor.

Depending on the facilities provided, Series 6000 systems will cost from £100,000 to £500,000, with deliveries expected to begin next November.

Kenneth Owen

Interest rates on Industry Act loans reduced

By Malcolm Brown

The maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest rates for loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 were reduced yesterday.

The Department of Industry said that the rate of interest relief grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a department loan, but where companies obtained their finance from other sources, was to be reduced from 12½ per cent to 12 per cent for each interest free year.

The concessionary rate of interest on loans for employment creating projects has been reduced from 9½ per cent to 9 per cent while the broadly commercial rate of interest on loans for modernization projects not providing additional employment has been cut from 12½ per cent to 12 per cent.

Queensland Alumina Holdings N.V.

6½% Secured Bonds Due 1982

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the Queensland Alumina Holdings N.V. Collateral Trust Indenture dated as of June 1, 1967, as supplemented, U.S. \$800,000 principal amount of the above described Bonds have been selected for redemption on June 1, 1977, in lieu of a redemption for the purpose of the Sinking Fund, at the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

BONDS OF U.S. \$1,000 EACH

26-5	1232	2318	3685	6031	7712	9012	10335	11719	13019	14195	15094	16201	16999	17612	18280	19132
17	1291	2340	3896	6032	7717	9014	10343	11721	13021	14201	15100	16207	17005	17618	18286	19138
60	1330	2379	3935	6037	7722	9019	10348	11726	13026	14206	15105	16212	17010	17623	18291	19143
69	1332	2380	3937	6039	7724	9021	10349	11728	13028	14208	15107	16214	17012	17625	18293	19145
81	1335	2383	3940	6042	7727	9024	10352	11731	13031	14211	15110	16217	17015	17628	18296	19148
110	1344	2392	3949	6051	7736	9033	10361	11740	13040	14220	15119	16226	17024	17637	18305	19157
124	1349	2397	3954	6056	7741	9038	10366	11745	13045	14225	15124	16231	17029	17642	18310	19162
144	1354	2402	3959	6061	7746	9043	10371	11750	13050	14230	15129	16236	17034	17647	18315	19167
164	1359	2407	3964	6066	7751	9048	10376	11755	13055	14235	15134	16241	17039	17652	18320	19172
184	1364	2412	3969	6071	7756	9053	10381	11760	13060	14240	15139	16246	17044	17657	18325	19177
195	1369	2417	3974	6076	7761	9058	10386	11765	13065	14245	15144	16251	17049	17662	18330	19182
215	1374	2422	3979	6081	7766	9063	10391	11770	13070	14250	15149	16256	17054	17667	18335	19187
235	1379	2427	3984	6086	7771	9068	10396	11775	13075	14255	15154	16261	17059	17672	18340	19192
255	1384	2432	3989	6091	7776	9073	10401	11780	13080	14260	15159	16266	17064	17677	18345	19197
275	1389	2437	3994	6096	7781	9078	10406	11785	13085	14265	15164	16271	17069	17682	18350	19202
295	1394	2442	3999	6101	7786	9083	10411	11790	13090	14270	15169	16276	17074	17687	18355	19207
315	1399	2447	4004	6106	7791	9088	10416	11795	13095	14275	15174	16281	17079	17692	18360	19212
335	1404	2452	4009	6111	7796	9093	10421	11800	13100	14280	15179	16286	17084	17697	18365	19217
355	1409	2457	4014	6116	7801	9098	10426	11805	13105	14285	15184	16291	17089	17702	18370	19222
375	1414	2462	4019	6121	7806	9103	10431	11810	13110	14290	15189	16296	17094	17707	18375	19227
395	1419	2467	4024	6126	7811	9108	10436	11815	13115	14295	15194	16301	17099	17712	18380	19232
415	1424	2472	4029	6131	7816	9113	10441	11820	13120	14300	15199	16306	17104	17717	18385	19237
435	1429	2477	4034	6136	7821	9118	10446	11825	13125	14305	15204	16311	17109	17722	18390	19242
455	1434	2482	4039	6141	7826	9123	10451	11830	13130	14310	15209	16316	17114	17727	18395	19247
475	1439	2487	4044	6146	7831	9128	10456	11835	13135	14315	15214	16321	17119	17732	18400	19252
495	1444	2492	4049	6151	7836	9133	10461	11840	13140	14320	15219	16326	17124	17737	18405	19257
515	1449	2497	4054	6156	7841	9138	10466	11845	13145	14325	15224	16331	17129	17742	18410	19262
535	1454	2502	4059	6161	7846	9143	10471	11850	13150	14330	15229	16336	17134	17747	18415	19267
555	1459	2507	4064	6166	7851	9148	10476	11855	13155	14335	15234	16341	17139	17752	18420	19272
575	1464	2512	4069	6171	7856	9153	10481	11860	13160	14340	15239	16346	17144	17757	18425	19277
595	1469	2517	4074	6176	7861	9158	10486	11865	13165	14345	15244	16351	17149	17762	18430	19282
615	1474	2522	4079	6181	7866	9163	10491	11870	13170	14350	15249	16356	17154	17767	18435	19287
635	1479	2527	4084	6186	7871	9168	10496	11875	13175	14355	15254	16361	17159	17772	18440	19292
655	1484	2532	4089	6191	7876	9173	10501	11880	13180	14360	15259	16366	17164	17777	18445	19297
675	1489	2537	4094	6196	7881	9178	10506	11885	13185	14365	15264	16371	17169	17782	18450	19302
695	1494	2542	4099	6201	7886	9183	10511	11890	13190	14370	15269	16376	17174	17787	18455	19307
715	1499	2547	4104	6206	7891	9188	10516	11895	13195	14375	15274	16381	17179	17792	18460	19312
735	1504	2552	4109	6211	7896	9193	10521	11900	13200	14380	15279	16386	17184	17797	18465	19317
755	1509	2557	4114	6216	7901	9198	10526	11905	13205	14385	15284	16391	17189	17802	18470	193



National Westminster Bank

Rate changes

NatWest announces that with effect from Tuesday, 26th April, 1977, its Base Rate is reduced from 9½% to 9% per annum.

Its Deposit Rate on all amounts lodged subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is 4½% per annum. Savings Accounts will now attract interest at 4½% per annum. All other rates remain unchanged.



The Royal Bank of Scotland INTEREST RATES

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 26th April, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 9½% per annum to 9% per annum.

The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will be reduced to 4½% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, Head Office, BO Box 31, 42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YE.

Williams & Glyn's

announces that the following rates will apply from and including Tuesday 26th April

Base rate..... 9% p.a.
Deposit rate..... 4½% p.a.

WILLIAMS & GLYN'S BANK LTD

Midland Bank Base Rate

Midland Bank Limited announces that with effect from Tuesday April 26th 1977, its Base Rate is reduced by ½% to 9% per annum.

Deposit Accounts. Interest paid on accounts held at branches and subject to 7 days notice of withdrawal is 4½% per annum.



Midland Bank

Business appointments

New F H Lloyd Holdings director

Mr R. G. Middleton has been made a director of F. H. Lloyd Holdings.

Mr R. K. Watson, deputy chairman of Scottish Life Assurance, is to become chairman in succession to Mr P. W. Turcan, who is retiring but who will remain on the board.

Mr G. T. Geddes, Mr D. W. T. Mackenzie and Mr R. B. Perry are now directors of Hogg Robinson Group.

Mr Stanley Arthur Ford has become technical director of Ransomes & Rapier, with board level responsibilities for all engineering design, development and quality assurance functions at their three manufacturing facilities at Ipswich, Sheffield and Ossett.

Anglesey Aluminium announce the following management appointments. Mr J. D. Hamilton, previously production director, managing director; Mr J. E. Jones, previously administrative director, deputy managing director; Mr W. O. D. Eadie becomes financial director. Mr E. H. Sangwine, previously managing director, is returning to the United States. He will, however, retain connections with Anglesey Aluminium and has been made deputy chairman.

Mr R. W. S. Plumley has succeeded Mr C. D. Alexander as chairman of Jamaica Sugar Estates. Mr Hugh Hart becomes deputy chairman.

Mr D. G. Jefferies will be director of personnel management

of the Central Electricity Generating Board from May 1. He succeeds Mr C. N. Strain who has been made director-general of the board's south-eastern region. Mr G. F. Humm has been made chairman of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society. Mr C. W. Thurston has become commercial director of GEC Computers.

Mr F. W. Knight, group managing director United Kingdom for Bristol-Myers becomes territorial director United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.



Mr R. K. Watson, who is to become the new chairman of Scottish Life Assurance.

Mr John Searson has been made chairman and financial director of BICC Cables.

Mr E. Lea has been made financial controller of BICC Industrial Products. Mr D. Henderson takes up a similar post with BICC Cables.

Mr John Payne has become managing director of Access Equipment, succeeding Dr Bruce Whitwell, who remains a director.

Mr J. L. D. Galley has been made managing director of Eldridge & Lewis. Mr H. C. Spink continues as chairman and chief executive.

Mr G. R. W. Dalgleish has been appointed a director of Higgs and Hill Overseas. He is resigning as a director of Higgs and Hill Northern. Mr L. Stoller has been made managing director of Higgs and Hill Northern. Mr N. L. C. Lambert, Mr I. R. Newton and Mr T. Taylor join the board.

Standard Chartered

announce that on and after the 26th April, 1977

the following annual rates will apply

Base rate 9%

Deposit rate 4½%



Standard Chartered Bank Limited

Barclays Bank Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on 26th April, 1977, our Base Rate will be decreased from 9½% to 9% per annum. The basic interest rate for deposits will be decreased by ½% from 5% to 4½% per annum.

Barclays Bank Limited
Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited
Barclays Bank International Limited

BARCLAYS

Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, EC3P 3AH
Reg. No's 48839, 926880 and 1026267.

Lloyds Bank Base Rate

Lloyds Bank announces that, with effect from Tuesday, April 26th, 1977, its Base Rate for lending is reduced to 9%. The rate of interest on 7-day notice Deposit accounts and Savings Bank accounts will be 4½%, a decrease of ½%.



ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the sixteenth annual general meeting of members of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited will be held at 44 Main Street, Johannesburg on Wednesday, May 10, 1977, at 11:00 for the following business:

1. To receive and consider the annual financial statements in respect of the year ended December 31, 1976.
2. To elect directors in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation's articles of association.
3. To consider and if deemed fit to pass with or without modification, the following resolution as an ordinary resolution, namely:

"That the directors be and they are hereby authorised to (a) To allot and issue, after providing for the allotment and issue of the ordinary shares in terms of the share incentive scheme, the staff share option scheme and any shares which shall have been set aside for allotment in substitution for shares in Rand Selection Corporation Limited arising on conversion of Bonds of US \$100 each representing the Rand Selection US \$20 million 6½% per cent convertible preference shares, all or any portion of the remaining unissued ordinary shares, 10 cents each in the capital of the Corporation, at such time and to such person or persons, company or companies, and upon such terms and conditions as they may determine."

(b) To make arrangements on such terms and conditions as they may deem fit for the subscription by undertakers of (a) Any shares offered by any of the above but not taken up by the persons entitled thereto; and (b) Any shares resulting from the consolidation of any fractional entitlements in respect of any shares issued in pursuance of a rights issue, provided that any rights to such shares which can be sold in full-paid form on the Johannesburg and/or London Stock Exchanges during the period which they are quoted on such stock exchanges may be sold by the undertakers, and the net proceeds of any sale of such rights shall be paid to the Corporation.

Holders of shares warrants to bearer who are desirous of attending in person or by proxy or of voting at any general meeting of the Corporation must comply with the regulations of the Corporation under which share warrants to bearer are issued. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Corporation.

By order of the Board
Managing Secretary
Registered Office
Johannesburg 2001 April 25, 1977

Europa

Investment in mines continues to rise

Consumers lag behind nations in support for coal industry

The oil crisis of the winter of 1973/74 led to a significant improvement in the value of European coal reserves.

Investment per ton of output increased in all European coal-producing countries. Where England, for example, only invested 1.42 units of account (UA) per ton of output in 1972, capital expenditure had risen to 2.78 UA by 1975. In West Germany investment in coal more than doubled, rising from 0.71 to 1.72 UA; the actual figures are available for 1976 and show that DM 867m (about £216m) was invested in coal mining, this compares with DM 678m in 1975.

Even the "lesser" coal producers like France and Belgium support their mining industries financially: in France investment per tonne increased from 0.53 UA in 1972 to 1.35 UA in 1975, and investment in Belgium from 0.81 UA to 1.07 UA over the same period.

This readiness of the producers and politicians to fight back at oil with domestic energy sources was not, however, supported by the consumers. European production by the Nine did admittedly rise from 243 million tonnes in 1974 to 257 million tonnes in 1975, but stocks rose from 11 to 26 million tonnes.

In 1976 production fell back in the individual countries: from 99 to 96 million tonnes in West Germany, from 22.4 to 21.9 million tonnes in France, from 7.5 to 7.2 million tonnes in Belgium, and from 128 to

122 million tonnes in the United Kingdom. Production in The Netherlands was discontinued in 1975, and in Italy and Eire there are only some 200 men producing 50,000 tonnes a year in each country.

When looking at the volume of investment in coal mining in Europe, it must be remembered that, under the so-called Brussels guidelines—to which the United Kingdom will also be subscribing in future—major capital expenditure may have the same effect as investment and still not have to be shown in the balance-sheet as such; that is, it can be included under "Other Expenditure" in the balance-sheet and duly deducted from profits before tax.

In Europe the coal-mining industry is not just affected by the poor economic climate: the producers are worried that, despite the slump in demand, European Community imports of coal from other countries rose from 38 million tonnes in 1974 to 41 million tonnes in 1975. Movements of coal inside the Community decreased from about 20 to 16.6 million tonnes, with Germany responsible for 13 million tonnes as against 16 million tonnes in the previous year.

The Community cannot even justify itself with its exports of coal for these increased im-

ports: to the contrary, exports fell from 17.3 million tonnes, leading to an increase in the "trade deficit" in coal from 36 to 39.7 million tonnes.

Electricity generation, and iron and steel production are the mainstays of the European coal-mining industry, but it is exactly the slump in the steel market that hit the mining industry. In 1974 European furnaces consumed 94.6 million tonnes of coking coal; in 1975 this was down to 76 million tonnes, and 1976 saw no revival in demand.

The impact of the economic situation was less noticeable in the electricity generation industry; here the demand for coal declined slightly from 776 to 772 million tonnes.

This meant that the share of coal in primary fuel input for electricity generation fell further to 27.9 per cent (in 1971 coal still had a share of 36.1 per cent).

Coal's share in electricity production in West Germany is 24.7 per cent, below the average for the Community. In France it is only 16.4 per cent. By contrast, energy policy in the United Kingdom favours a greater share for coal in electricity production, and this has accordingly risen from 57.1 to 62.4 per cent.

Italy is not a coal producer, and it is not surprising that the share of coal in primary fuel input in electricity generation is only 1.2 per cent; but even here it was still 3 per cent in 1971.

Hans Baumann

LONDON BRICK COMPANY LIMITED

Sir Ronald Stewart, Bt., Announces Record Results and Comments on Monopolies Commission Report

The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Sir Ronald Stewart, Bt., for the year ended 31st December 1976:

FINANCIAL Profits for 1976 were in excess of those of the previous year and established a new record for the Group. Turnover increased from £66,964,000 to £78,580,000, and for the first time the value of export sales exceeded £1,000,000. Profits before charging depreciation amounted to £12,141,000, compared with £11,340,000 for the previous year. After charging depreciation of £1,620,000 compared with £1,549,000, the profit before taxation was £10,521,000 compared with £9,791,000. After providing corporation tax at 52% the profits after taxation amounted to £5,196,000 compared with £4,605,000 for the previous year.

A provision of £900,000 has been made against the cost of investments held by the Group.

An interim dividend of 1.1323p per Ordinary Stock unit of 25p has been paid and a final dividend for the year of 1.7576p is recommended. The total dividend of 2.8899p is the maximum permitted by the Treasury. The retained profit for the year amounted to £2,581,000 and has been transferred to reserves.

TRADING YEAR Profits were hit by a combination of bad weather and the damaging effect of Government measures on housebuilding in the closing months of the year. Once again our main market was hit by cuts in Government spending in the public sector combined with the damaging effect of high interest rates in the private sector and the stability for which the industry craves was once again denied us. Our vulnerability as a process industry to the cyclical nature of construction in this country is by now well known and has led us in recent years both to broaden our base in this country and to seek new markets overseas.

BRICK PRODUCTION The Monopolies Commission Report which came out in the summer of 1976 stated that the Company's monopoly position in fletton brickmaking was not deliberately sought and was the natural result of London Brick's greater efficiency in fletton brickmaking. The Commission was in fact obviously impressed by the Company's experience and skill in the manufacture of fletton bricks and by the steps it had taken both to build new works and to bring the efficiency of works it had acquired up to its own overall standard of efficiency. They noted, however, that the Company had quite understandably kept in production older and higher cost works and that these had acted as a valuable buffer against the vagaries of the building cycle. After thoroughly examining the Company's record of investment in replacement plant and in evaluating the economics of building new works against maintaining existing plant, the Commission recorded that they saw no grounds for criticism of the Company's recent investment performance or its current strategy.

BRICK DEMAND The overall figure of 326,000 houses started in 1976, whilst much the same in total to the previous year, masks a continuing rise in starts in the first half of the year, followed by a fall which gained momentum as the year progressed. As the Monopolies Commission pointed out, the brick industry has suffered perhaps more than any other producer of building materials from fluctuations in construction activity. It pointed out that such fluctuations create additional costs and increase the risks of investment and concluded significantly "there are no remedies short of a more stable climate for the industry for which Government has a special degree of responsibility."

PRICES During 1976 the average delivered cost of fletton bricks rose by seventeen per cent. The Monopolies Commission, judging the London Brick price record over a twenty-year period, noted that the Company sought to achieve its profit objectives by increasing the volume and efficiency

of its production rather than by raising prices and concluded that the Company had at no time exploited its monopoly position to charge excessive prices.

DISTRIBUTION The Monopolies Commission with one dissentient criticised the Company for seeking a lower margin on bricks delivered longer distances from the works than those delivered nearer home. For many years the Company has done this, both to level out prices to customers throughout the country and to try to achieve the greatest economy of scale. The Commission criticised the Company not because of any adverse effect on the customer, but because they believed it constituted unfair competition against the Company's competitors. The adoption of the Commission's recommendation will only have a marginal effect on the Company's sales at distant points and is unimportant commercially.

BRICK BANK The suggestion of a "brick bank" originally proposed by the Trade Unions whereby Government might help the brick industry to finance a higher level of stock and thus help to preserve employment at times of low demand was considered by the Monopolies Commission to be worthy of closer study by Government. To our mind it treats the symptom rather than the disease and Government would be better employed as the largest client of the building industry in seeking to provide some greater continuity and stability in its demands on the industry rather than in seeking to ameliorate the ill effects of the present instability.

PROFITABILITY The Monopolies Commission report showed that in terms of capital employed at no time over the last twenty years had the return exceeded 30% and that the average level of Group profit had been 23%. They concluded that the Company had not used its monopoly position to make excessive profit out of fletton brickmaking.

LONDON BRICK BUILDINGS During the year the sales of the different companies within London Brick Buildings was to a larger or lesser extent affected by the growing squeeze on disposable incomes. Hardest hit were perhaps those whose products involved substantial outlay to the householder. There was a reduction in demand for garages, home extensions and fencing, but the high cost of food in the shops helped to maintain the demand for greenhouses and Alton with its unique position in this market made a substantial contribution to Group profit.

OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES Once again there was a dramatic increase in export sales and whilst this still only represents a fraction of total turnover it does represent a conscious effort on behalf of management to extend overseas activities. The new brick factory at Tehran will come on stream in the autumn of this year and will be the first plant abroad to use the London Brick system of manufacture. Although London Brick Buildings' overseas activities are obviously on a smaller scale they are widespread and are rapidly expanding.

PROSPECTS Trading in the opening weeks of the current year has been at a depressed level. Brick deliveries have been adversely affected both by the waterlogged condition of building sites and by the poor demand for new building.

The continuing fall in Minimum Lending Rate and the consequent improvement in the flow of funds into the building societies gives us reason to hope that the climate for private housebuilding is now improving and that this will in due course be reflected in an improvement in private housing starts.

The acquisition of The Croydon Company, who manufacture a wide range of products for the home and garden, will further reduce the Company's dependence on the cyclical nature of new house-building and will broaden the service we can provide to the individual householder.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Winn goes up 29pc to top £1m for first time

By Tony May

A strong second-half has taken pre-tax profits of Winn Industries over the £1m mark for the first time. On turnover 5 per cent up at £18.6m pre-tax profits for 1976 jumped 29 per cent to a record £1.13m. This indicates a rise in margins from 5 to 6.1 per cent.

After debiting £9,000 of extraordinary items, retained profits are £222,000, against £12,000. On this the dividend is being raised from 3.49p to 3.85p gross, while earnings a share are 4.7p against 4.3p.

At midday, the group, which recently sold its 22 per cent stake in Mann & Overton, the taxicab group, reported a record pre-tax profit of £432,000. The group managed to raise its turnover from £8.58m to £8.87m despite sharply increased costs. On the whole the group was trading well, but some subsidiaries were under-trading.

The second-half saw profits jump 45 per cent to £685,000, reflecting the tighter rein now being kept on the group—which these days is mainly interested in building and engineering. Bank borrowings are soon expected to be nil, and investment in "the right" kind of company is very much in the board's mind.

Sterling fall put Chrysler adrift of forecast

By Victor Felstead

Sales of Chrysler United Kingdom contracting from £331.1m to £331.57m, in 1976, it reports an operating loss, before interest and tax, up from £25.14m to £32.71m. There was a loss, after all charges, of £42.89m, against £35.51m, before the Government grant of £41.5m. So the net loss was cut to £1.39m, against £35.51m.

Meanwhile all of the programmes involved in the reorganization of manufacturing and assembly facilities have either been completed or are on schedule.

The company spent £13.6m on facilities, buildings, plant, equipment and tooling in 1976. This major restructuring programme limited production of vehicles last year, which lowered the company's sales potential.

Chrysler's loss is slightly higher than expected at the time of the agreement with the Government. But it was caused by the deterioration in sterling. The effect of this was £4.9m, so Chrysler would have operated within its original forecast for 1976, but for sterling weakness.

Stock markets

Equities drift back from firm start

The new accounts got away to a subdued start as pay doubts continued to outweigh the incentive of still lower interest rates. Not even the expected rounding of base rate cuts from the clearing banks was able to stimulate much interest and the FT Index, 1.2 ahead at 10 am, drifted

also rising by the same amount. There were also strong rises from Hammerson "A" 7p to 410p, Haslemere, 6p to 182p, and Bernard Sunley, 5p to 155p. The Ekofisk well blow-out served to depress oil shares, particularly Petrofina which owns around 30 per cent of the consortium and which closed 12.50 lower at £101.50. BP lost 14p to 910p, Shell, 8p to 508p, and IC Gas was off 15p.

On the electrical pitch, Reynolds Parfons traded at 168p against a background of conjecture that the Parsons company will be sold off to GEC, off a penny at 173p.

Greenwells have produced a study of the turbine generator industry. Hawker Siddeley continued to gain ground in engineers with a rise of 6p to 564p. Comment helped United Wire to a 5p jump to 64p and figures from Simon had the shares 4p to the good at 166p. Others to attract support were Laird Group, 4p to 581p, and Herbert Morris, 5p to 292p.

In the shipping sector, Common Brothers, a recent speculative favourite, fell 13p to 283p as profits were taken. But hopes of a bid had Swan Hunter 5p up to 119p and British & Commonwealth 2p ahead at 287p, both being major shareholders. Elsewhere in shipping, Hunting Gibson continued its recent strength with another 5p rise to 185p.

Buildings had a laing ordinary and "A" shares both 2p lower at 92p after figures which, although better than most estimates, showed a worsening of the overseas side. Ahead of its statement later this week, Wimpey eased 1p to 57p. Dealers are looking for profits of £38m, against £35.4m.

Hotels continued to attract demand in a sector which is rife with bid rumours. The best were Rowton, up 12p to 122p, and Trust Houses Forte where the gain was 3p to 147p. Profit-taking clipped 8p from Centre Hotels at 38p.

Among the speculative stocks, Gallenkamp "A" 4p to 288p and United Scientific 6p to 200p continued to go ahead but Gill & Duffus, where final figures are due on Friday, lost 5p to 223p.

Latest dividends

Company	Div	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
(and par value)	date	total	date	total	year
Brooks Watson (20p) Fin	1.3	1.04	—	1.82	1.04
BGG Int Fin	1.13	0.32	—	1.62	0.65
Chesford Int (10p) Fin	1.93	1.17	16.6	2.93	2.66
Farnell Elec (20p) Fin	2.43	1.21	17	3.82	3.68
John Laing (25p) Fin	2.07	0.8	—	2.82	1.47
Manders (Hedge) (25p) Fin	1.52	1.22	15.6	2.27	2.06
R.T.Z. (20p) Fin	2.52	2.7	24.5	8.0	5.37
Silhouette (Low) (20p) Fin	2.82	2.2	—	3.21	2.82
Simon Eng (25p) Fin	4.52	4.13	1.7	6.95	6.32
Winn Inds Fin	1.46	1.3	—	2.5	2.37

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.34. * Adjusted for scrip.

Dealers are looking for full-year profits of around £42m, against £49m, from Sir Charles Clere's Sears Holdings. A better-than-expected return from United Kingdom shoe retailing should help to lessen the impact of losses in the United States. The group is thought to have done particularly well immediately before the December mini-Budget. The shares held steady at 40p.

shade firmer. RTZ traded at 237p after exemption from dividend controls. At its best it touched 244p. News that BPC had sold its stake had Marshall Cavendish 4p ahead at 47p and retailer Nurdin & Peacock added 3p to 125p.

ECG turnover on April 22 was £79.97m (£17.85m bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BP, Shell, GKN new, BAT Dfd, GKN, Barclays, Courtaulds, Marks & Spencer, IC Gas, Swan Hunter, Hay's Wharf, Reynolds Parsons, GEC, GMI, Farnell Electronic, United Wire and United Scientific.

The base rate cuts did little for the clearing banks with Barclays shedding 5p to 245p, National Westminster 3p to 225p, Midland 2p to 280p and Lloyds at an unchanged 210p. Firmer spots in the sector were to be found in Smith & Nephew 2p to 70p, Kleinwort Benson 2p to 88p and Arbuthnot Latham 2p to 120p.

The annual report lowered Sun Alliance 8p to 407p but some of the brokers closed a

AAC faces heavier tax on gold profits

By Ray Maughan

Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, the £4,900m mining finance and industrial group, is facing heavier tax requirements on gold profits.

Stressing the importance of "maintaining and encouraging the confidence of investors, especially those based overseas", Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman, states in his annual report, "it is most unfortunate that the government should have chosen at a time of great difficulty for the industry to increase the rate of tax payable through higher surcharges and loan levies. The effect of these changes is that richer mines may now contribute as much as 74 per cent of their profits to the fiscus."

Although AAC has not suffered from severe labour disputes and shortages, the potential losses of mining production on failure to reach agreement with the Mine Workers' Union "could be very serious".

Labour relations in the industry last year, Mr Oppenheimer claims, enjoyed comparative peace but the fundamental problem could "only be fully resolved by creating a permanent labour force". He insists, however, that the cost of housing all mining employees and their families is "quite beyond the resources" of the industry.

Attributable profits for 1976 climbed 1.8 per cent to £86.28m which, in view of the political disturbances and the decline in real domestic spending, he regards as "satisfactory". The post-tax total excludes a £20m provision against the



Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa.

investment made in the Société Minière de Tenke Fungurume. The political and economic situation in Zaire coupled with the fall in the copper price, which precluded the completion of satisfactory financing agreements, persuaded the partners to stop work on this venture. But the viability of an operation on a smaller scale is being considered. Though "world conditions remain unfavourable for financing such a major project", AAC and its partners "continue to have confidence in the long-term viability of SMIT".

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED ("AAC")

RAND SELECTION CORPORATION LIMITED ("RAND SELECTION")

(Both of which are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

MERGER OF AAC AND RAND SELECTION

At the meeting of shareholders of Rand Selection held on 25th April, 1977 the special resolution for the reduction of capital of Rand Selection to give effect to its merger with AAC and Rand Selection whereby Rand Selection will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of AAC, was approved. In addition the resolutions relating to the conversion of portion of the preference share capital of Rand Selection into ordinary share capital of AAC were approved. The necessary increase of ordinary share capital of AAC to effect the merger was approved at a meeting of shareholders of AAC held on the same day.

Application will be made by Rand Selection to The Supreme Court of South Africa (Whitewater Local Division) on 3rd May, 1977 to confirm the reduction of capital of Rand Selection to give effect to the merger. If on that day The Supreme Court of South Africa confirms the reduction of Rand Selection's share capital then the relevant dates of the merger will be those stated in the circular to shareholders, namely:

(a) THE RECORD DATE, i.e. the last day for Rand Selection shareholders to register for purposes of the merger will be 6th May, 1977

(b) THE OPERATIVE DATE, i.e. the date on which—

(i) the merger will become operative; and

(ii) the listing on The Johannesburg Stock Exchange and The Stock Exchange in London for the new AAC ordinary shares allotted to give effect to the merger will commence,

will be 8th May, 1977.

Rand Selection shareholders will be informed of any change in either of these dates.

AAC certificates (where the Rand Selection share certificates, or other documents of title, are surrendered before the operative date) will be issued on 27th May, 1977.

The rights of offer of ordinary shares in Rand Selection is due to close on 6th May, 1977. If the reduction of capital of Rand Selection to give effect to the merger is confirmed by the Court, AAC proposes to make an offer to Rand Selection on behalf of the subscribers to the rights offer to allot and issue to them two ordinary shares in AAC in consideration for the cancellation of their rights to receive each Rand Selection ordinary share subscribed.

Rand Selection is authorised and has undertaken to accept such offer on behalf of all the subscribers. Such AAC ordinary shares will not qualify for a proposed special dividend of 8.25 cents per share to be declared by AAC to its ordinary shareholders registered on 6th May, 1977 ("the record date"). An announcement to be made on 4th May, 1977 will give particulars of this special dividend and confirmation of the record date.

London Office, JOHANNESBURG 26th April, 1977 40 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ.

TI's business strategies are coming through in profits

In his statement to shareholders the TI Chairman, Mr. Brian Kellett, says: "We are now beginning to see the fruits of deliberate strategies over recent years aimed at much improved performance. The results of our efforts have so far come through most strongly in the Steel Tube and Aluminium Divisions". In other areas "much of the groundwork has been done and we are confident that we are now moving strongly in the right direction. We have a range of basically sound businesses making products people want and are likely to go on wanting".

Despite the continuing recession in the UK and in many overseas markets, the value of TI's sales increased by 10%, in 1976 to £716 million, while profit before tax rose 17%, to £49.6 million. Although the seasonal rate of profits is normally higher towards the end of the year, it is notable that in 1976 £31.1 million of the profits were earned in the second half. This performance represents considerable progress in a number of TI's key business areas.

Progress in the Divisions

The Steel Tube Division had a good year. The substantial capital expenditure over recent years at the major seamless tubemaking plants of TI Weldless and TI Desford and on gas cylinder manufacture at TI Chesterfield has proved very successful. Effective operation of these capital-intensive plants requires an assured supply of consistently high quality steel. For this reason TI has backed the continuous casting scheme at Round Oak Steel Works, jointly owned with the British Steel Corporation; steel from the new unit is now being processed in the tube works with excellent results.

The Cycle Division recovered well in 1976. Its world wide spread of business enabled the effects of the collapse of the USA market to be offset by increased sales in other markets, particularly Nigeria. Substantial sums have been committed to two expenditure schemes at Sturmer Archer and Cox of Watford to improve plant layout and productivity.

The Domestic Appliance Division had a difficult year as a result of the low UK demand for consumer durables. Reorganisation programmes have now brought capacity in all the Division's significant products into proper relationship with prospective demand, while extensive plant re-equipment programmes are beginning to show results. Improved prospects for 1977 are evident.

In the Engineering Division, Crane Packing maintained its excellent performance. The Transport Equipment companies made good progress, demand for their products being related to the steadily increasing vehicle population rather than to the vehicle manufacturing sector.

1976 was a year of low demand for machine tools. Numerically controlled machines are, however, seen to have great growth potential for Machine Division. An important re-equipment programme has been put in hand at Charles Churchill.

Divisional Sales and Profit Before Loan Interest		
£ million	Sales	Profit
Steel Tube	231.5	26.6
Cycle	107.9	6.1
Domestic Appliance	114.1	1.0
Engineering	60.6	3.7
Machine	41.9	0.8
Industrial Electrical	15.5	0.5
Allen West & Simplex-GE	29.7	2.8
Consumer Finance	3.4	1.4
Overseas	111.8	7.9
Service and other companies	—	(0.3)
Aluminium: Proportion of BA Group profit before tax attributable to TI	—	6.4
	716.4	56.9

Industrial Electrical Division maintained its profits, despite its close dependence on the currently depressed construction industry. Allen West & Simplex-GE Division, which acquired Wallacetown in 1975, has successfully extended the flameproof component business, which is well equipped to meet increasing demands for coal-mining equipment.

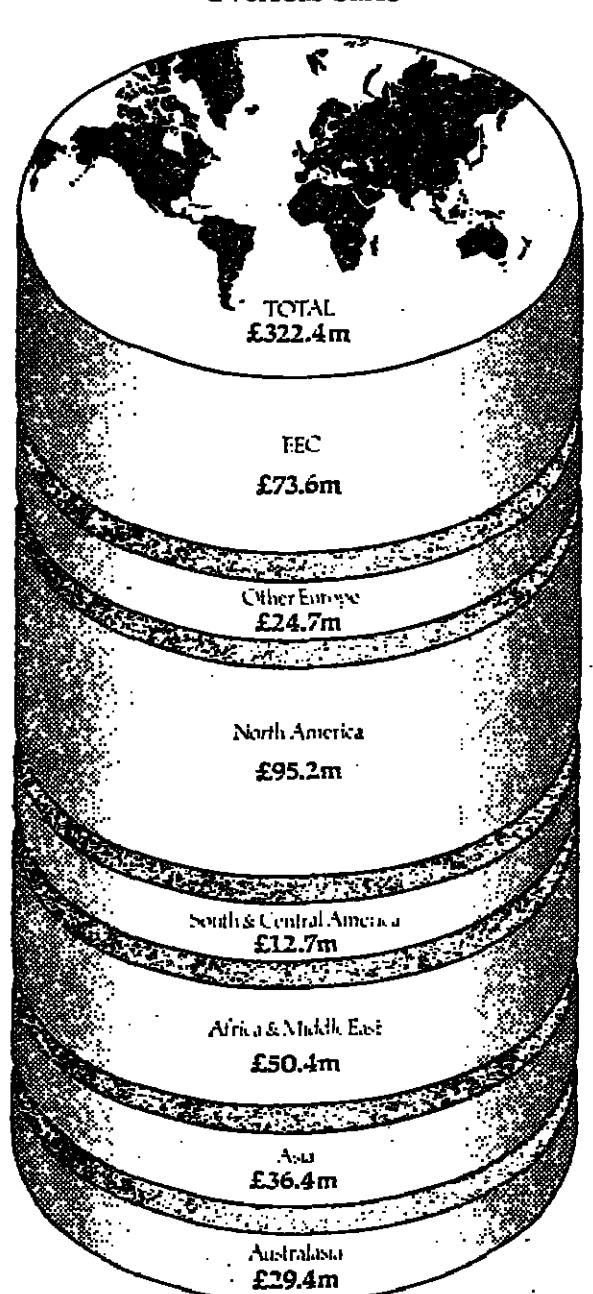
British Aluminium achieved a substantial expansion in profits as the result of a comprehensive business strategy following up the commissioning of the Invergordon smelter.

TI's spread of business

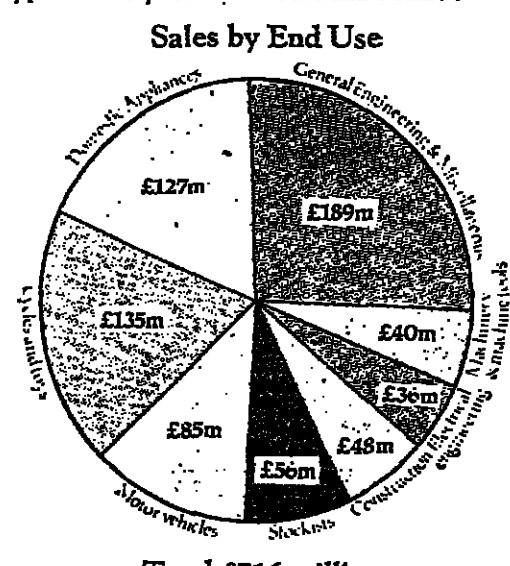
TI's business is spread between the UK and overseas markets, and between capital and consumer goods. Much of the credit for the increase in sales in 1976 is due to overseas business, both locally by the Group's overseas subsidiaries, and from exports from the UK based companies.

Sales to overseas customers rose by £62 million to £322 million, an increase of 24%. TI's overseas spread is shown on the diagram below and illustrates the continuing importance of North America and the EEC. Of the Group's total sales, 45%, now come from overseas or export business.

Geographical Distribution of Overseas Sales



The end uses of the Group's sales are approximately as shown in the chart below.



Capital expenditure and cash

In 1976 TI devoted £21.9 million to capital expenditure schemes—41%, more than in 1975—and it is intended to increase the rate of spending still further in the future. This growth in capital expenditure formed part of a planned increase in TI's borrowings.

In the TI Report to Employees Mr. Kellett sounds a note of warning: "We did not generate enough cash last year to meet all our needs, and our borrowings increased by £18 million during the year. This demonstrates that if we are to continue with our spending programmes, which are so vital for our future, we need much higher profits yet. I am sure this is the right course for TI—to develop into a high-profit, well-equipped Group".

Where TI stands

In his statement to shareholders Mr. Kellett writes: "We are clear that the final test for us is in the market place. We must produce goods and services which we are able to sell in sufficient volume and at a sufficient price to enable us to generate enough profit to sustain our businesses for the future. That requires us to be at least as well-equipped as our international competitors, and as efficient and productive in our processes and our working practices".

Referring to employee participation in industry he states: "TI has long recognised that people want to know and should know what is going on in the areas that concern them and their work. They want to understand the decisions that affect them, and to be able to feel confident that these decisions are sensible and based on rational criteria. Only if these reasonable aspirations are met can the conditions for a successful business be created and sustained. Among these conditions are pride in product and performance, and the identification of job security with company prosperity and of individual reward with contribution to that prosperity".

He rejects the Bullock proposals as potentially damaging and writes: "The constructive approach we are adopting in TI is to continue our efforts to improve communication at operating levels about the progress and prospects of the businesses, and to develop closer understanding and involvement by employees in the business developments and decisions that may affect them".

Copies of the TI Annual Report for 1976, containing the Chairman's Statement, a Business Review and the Directors' Report and Accounts, may be obtained from the Secretary, Tube Investments Limited, TI House, Five Ways, Birmingham B16 8SQ.

The Huntleigh Group Limited

"The Group made further gains, to achieve record sales and earnings, in the year under review. The second half performance exceeded, by a good margin, the first half performance and, over the year, the Group did better than the interim forecast."

Sir Joseph Hunt, M.B.E., Chairman

COMPARATIVE FIGURES		1976	1975
		£000	£000
Turnover		5,611	3,637
Turnover % increase on year:	54%		
Profit before Tax		871	543
Profit before tax % increase on year:	47%		
Profit after Tax		403	311
Dividends per share		2.1p	1.9p
Earnings per share (fully diluted)		12.4p	9.5p
Net Tangible Assets per share		73.4p	62.8p

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Abercorn Rooms, London EC2 at 12 noon on Thursday, 19th May, 1977.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Company Secretary, The Huntleigh Group Limited, Glover Street, Redditch B98 7BQ.

The City Offices Company Limited

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the Year 1976

- Pre-tax profits have increased for the eleventh successive year and the maximum permissible dividend has been declared.
- Net rental income is higher and more freehold industrial property was acquired during the year.
- A revaluation of investment properties has disclosed a net appreciation of £944,778.

Summary of Results			
Year ended 31st December			
	1974	1975	1976
	£000	£000	£000
Gross Income	1,058	1,124	1,232
Profit after Taxation	375	435	535
Dividends, net	308	324	356
Profit retained	69	111	179
Earnings per share, net	1.62p	1.89p	2.32p



London and Manchester Assurance Company Limited

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Lewis Whyte, C.B.E., F.F.A., on the Group Report and Accounts for 1976

Year of reorganisation Growth in premium income Increased bonuses

1976 has been another satisfactory year for your Company. Good progress has been made in increasing the premium income, the yield on the funds is materially higher than last year and a degree of success has been achieved in controlling the rise in the normal expenses of operation. Much of the success can be directly attributed to the efforts of the staff. I therefore will commence my statement by thanking everyone on behalf of the directors for all they have achieved during the past year.

Group Reorganisation
1976 has also been a year of reorganisation within the group. Following the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 2nd August, 1976 your Company acquired from National Westminster Bank Limited its 49 per cent shareholding in Welfare Insurance Company Limited and that company became a wholly-owned subsidiary of London and Manchester.

In my letter to shareholders of 8th July, 1976, I referred to the problems of Welfare Insurance meeting the valuation and admissibility regulations made under the Insurance Companies Act, 1974, which came into force on 1st May, 1976. As outlined in that letter, the directors deemed it necessary to transfer at proper value certain assets from Welfare to London and Manchester where, because of the much greater size of the fund, they would be fully admissible. As part consideration for this the liabilities relating to a substantial block of appropriate life assurance business were also transferred by way of re-assurance.

I am glad to report that Welfare now no longer requires dispensation from any of the regulations. We are convinced that the time when Welfare becomes a profitable subsidiary has been brought forward.

At about the time of the transfer of assets already referred to, Welfare Insurance had made an offer to acquire the balance of the issued share capital of Keith & Henderson Limited not already owned by it. That offer was accepted at a price of 83p per share and the shareholding was one of the assets transferred to London and Manchester. Keith & Henderson is therefore now a wholly-owned subsidiary of your Company.

The Board
In August the directors appointed Mr. D. H. Baker, F.C.A., Director and General Manager of Welfare Insurance, to the Board of your Company.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Rhyll retires at the Annual General Meeting having reached the age of 70. Lord Rhyll has been a director of the Company since 1960 and I take this opportunity of expressing the Board's warm appreciation of his shrewd wisdom and advice during the past 17 years. He has always been one of the staunchest of colleagues.

Subject to shareholders' approval the directors have invited me to remain as Chairman for one further year. Accordingly, special notice has been given of a Resolution for my re-appointment as a director to be submitted at the Annual General Meeting.

In anticipation of my retirement in 12 months' time and in the light of the need for a full-time Chairman, Mr. H. L. K. Browne, the Company's Chief Executive, has been appointed as a Deputy Chairman with a view to his appointment as Chairman to succeed me. Lord Wakehurst will continue to hold office as a Deputy Chairman.

Ordinary Branch
The increased figures for new sums assured and new annual premiums reflect the business reassured from Welfare. During the year there was a welcome increase in business from our own full-time Field Staff, but business introduced through our broker connection suffered a sharp decline reflecting conditions in the mortgage market.

As a result of our acquisition of Welfare, a company which has specialised in the pensions field for many years, we are now able to offer a full range of group life and individual pension contracts through the London and Manchester marketing organisation.

Industrial Branch
New annual premiums are some 6.2 per cent higher than those for 1975 and the premium income has continued to grow at about the average rate of the last few years.

The published expense ratio increased from 46.8 per cent to 47.9 per cent but the increase was caused wholly by the non-recurring expenditure of the move to Exeter.

We remain confident that, with the co-operation and goodwill of our staff we can continue to provide a service in the homes of our policyholders at an acceptable cost to them and at the same time offer a satisfying and progressive career to members of our Field Staff.

General Branch
The growth in premium income during 1976 was 17 per cent but, in common with the general experience in the industry, claims experience was poor.

Losses arising from heavy subsidence claims due to the drought of last summer, following considerable storm damage in the early part of the year, had an adverse effect on our profit share and, after charging administration costs, there was a loss of £198,000.

Welfare Insurance
The level of Welfare's new business for 1976 was somewhat down on the previous year though, within the overall figures, pensions new business showed a healthy increase.

Chief Office
The new Chief Office building at Winstlade Manor near Exeter should be completed by the end of the current financial year and we anticipate moving into these premises in the Spring of 1978. Meanwhile, the major part of the Chief Office administration has been accommodated in temporary premises in Exeter where we have recruited some 230 staff to join the 30 people who have transferred from London.

The premises at Finsbury Square, which have been the London and Manchester headquarters for many years, have been sold to Canadian Pacific Steamships for a sum of approximately £11m.

The move to Exeter will enable us to house the Chief Office operations of London and Manchester and Welfare in one place and to effect considerable economies in group administration costs. The move of Welfare staff has now commenced and will continue until the middle of 1978 when Welfare's fine head office building overlooking the Channel at Folkestone will be vacated and available for letting or sale.

Investments
(a) London and Manchester
The valuation of the investments of the long-term fund at the end of 1976 disclosed a total net appreciation, after estimated contingent liability for tax on capital gains and after the write-up of £850,000 referred to below, of £17.0m. (compared

with an appreciation of £26.6m. for 1975). This figure is based on (a) the Stock Exchange investments (including 75 per cent of the security dollar premium) at middle market price at the end of 1976; (b) properties, including our Chief Office building in Finsbury Square, at current valuation; (c) mortgages and loans at values based on an appropriate market rate of interest over the expected term of the loan, less reserve.

In my review of our investment policy last year I commented that at times of uncertainty there was much to be said for the old investment adage: "look after the income and the capital will look after itself".

We continued last year to adhere to this philosophy and it was one of the major reasons why the yield on the life funds was increased from 10.37 per cent to over 11 per cent. The increase arose partly from higher dividends on ordinary shares and from certain changes in our ordinary share portfolio, from relatively low-yielding stocks to those giving higher yields. It arose also from other movements in the portfolio of stock exchange securities.

For nearly 25 years we have pursued a policy of adding to investment trust equity or convertible holdings whenever they appeared intrinsically and relatively attractive.

The merits of investing in investment trust company stocks are well known and need not be restated here, but there were two developments last year worthy of particular comment. During the latter part of 1976 investment trusts became cheaper in relation to the general equity market than for several years, when measured by the discounts between market prices and net asset values. This relatively poor market performance prompted several management groups to demonstrate the actual investment experience of the companies in each group over a long period of time, and publication of these figures showed convincingly that the management of such funds by the investment trust companies was in fact very expert and well above the average performance of markets as a whole.

At the same time many investment trust companies, which are free from dividend limitations since they operate as investment media, were paying out a higher proportion of earnings and giving in many cases very satisfactory dividend increases. Some groups were able to show that the dividend increases over the past few years were more than keeping pace with inflation. Any such ability to exceed the pace of inflation in dividend declarations is by itself a favourable factor of profound significance and may well prove to be a more enduring factor in the market assessment of an investment trust's worth than the relationship between price and net asset value.

Although the yield on the life funds improved substantially in 1976 our estimates for the current year indicate a further improvement and we intend to continue the policy of placing prime importance on high income, which we believe is also more likely to increase market values rather than the contrary. Another major factor in our estimate of income growth will be the benefit we will receive from the sale of 50 Finsbury Square, the proceeds from which will be substantially in excess of the cost of the development of the new Chief Office premises at Exeter.

(b) Welfare
The decrease in total policyholders' investments from £59.3m. to £41.9m. is accounted for by the transfer of assets to the parent company as explained earlier in my statement.

The major change in the investment portfolio is in the investment trust sector which increased from £8.4m. to £16.8m. largely due to the completion of our reinvestment programme of the various linked funds, particularly of the investment trust fund.

The Complete Bonus System
As usual under the Complete Bonus System, all with profit policyholders share in the annual surplus made by the Company in 1976. The bonuses declared represent a further substantial increase in the reversionary bonuses in each branch and £400,000 has been transferred from Inner reserve to the ordinary life fund and £450,000 to the industrial life fund to provide for terminal bonuses.

In the Ordinary Branch the reversionary bonus declared stands at £4.50 per cent of the sum assured having increased from £4.25 per cent in the previous year. A 20-year endowment assurance now pays nearly twice the sum assured on maturity.

In the Industrial Branch the reversionary bonuses vary with the type of policy but taking the endowment assurance policy which remains the most popular form of assurance, this year's declaration has reached £3.30 per cent of the sum assured compared with £3.10 per cent for the year 1975.

Profit and Loss Account and Dividend
Transfers from the two life funds have been made on the established basis of 10 per cent of distributable surplus, and a sum of £80,000 has been transferred from the Investment Trust Retirement Annuity Fund. Moves to increase the rate of interest on the investments of the shareholders' funds have resulted in a further rise of £80,000 in investment income, although this has been partly offset by the adverse results of the General Branch to which I have previously referred.

Your directors have declared two interim dividends which, with tax at 35 per cent, would be the maximum distribution allowable under current legislation. In the event of the rate of tax being reduced this summer to 33 per cent a final dividend of -0.8775p per share would be permitted and the directors recommend a final dividend of this amount, which would be payable only in the event of such tax reduction. The total gross equivalent dividend for the year of 7.85878p per share is well within the earnings per share of 10.17 pence. Had it not been for legislation restricting dividend increases to not more than 10 per cent gross equivalent, your directors would have been in a position to recommend a total dividend more in line with the earnings.

The Future
Our enlarged group embraces all forms of personal insurance contracts. We have made excellent progress in our plans to promote these contracts to the optimum benefit of all concerned, and we believe that we have the people with the technical and managerial skills to achieve our aims. We have made a good start in the first quarter of the current year and I firmly believe that the prospects for growth and profitability are better now than at any other time in recent years.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 18th May, 1977. Copies of the Report, which includes the full text of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary at 50 Finsbury Square, EC2A 1HE.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Tubes sees fruits of strategy but Weir awaits desalination

By Our Financial Staff

From the heartland of engineering come two encouraging bulletins, but both make it clear that this sprawling collection of industries has a long way to go before boomtime returns.

The first is from Tube Investments which raised pre-tax profits from £42.34m to £49.6m last year.

Mr Brian Kellett, chairman, reports that Tubes is now beginning to see the benefit of policies pursued in recent years. The effort put into them has so far come through most

strongly in the steel tube and aluminium divisions.

The chairman's review pinpoints areas that are still slack. The domestic appliance division adapted to the United Kingdom downturn in the first half of last year and prospects are now much better. The division looks forward to generating much higher profits.

But the machine division (machine tools are half sales) found demand weak throughout most of last year but it went further into exports, now 51 per cent of sales.

Industrial electricals held their own despite construction slump. In the steel division

there is doubt in the short run about orders.

From Weir Group, the message from Lord Weir is that better exports should present an "opportunity to make at least a modest advance" this year to December. Contract completions will probably see most of the gain falling into the second six months.

There are lots of orders for desalination plant but "it is still too early to see the significant profits which we expect in future years".

The chairman notices that borrowings have dropped to 89 per cent of equity capital but this is still too high.

RTZ exemption lifts dividend by 47 pc

By Ashley Drucker

Rio Tinto-Zinc's application for exemption from dividend control has been granted by the Treasury. This is on the grounds that the group's trading profits and operating assets are almost exclusively overseas or based on operations overseas. As from shadowed with 1976 results earlier this month, the directors now recommend a total ordinary dividend of 12.31p gross compared with 8.34p.

The final dividend of 4.82p net, instead of the 2.78p previously declared, will be paid without tax deduction and will carry a tax credit which will be available chiefly to United Kingdom resident shareholders and also to shareholders resident in some other countries

under double taxation agreements.

Subject to the recommended final dividend being approved at the annual meeting, holders of accumulating ordinary will receive on July 1 a further allotment credited as fully paid, on the basis of 0.020877 of a new share for every one held.

Inchcape set the precedent and RTZ is the latest to use the overseas assets and earnings argument successfully to increase the dividend beyond the 10 per cent mark. In 1976 about 50 per cent of assets and 80 per cent of earnings were outside the United Kingdom. Under the exemption just granted the gross dividend is lifted 47.6 per cent and the yield to 5.52 per cent.

Ladbroke again off to a flying start

Ladbroke Group predicts another record year and also promises a substantial increase in dividends when legislation allows.

Mr Cyril Stein, chairman and managing director, tells shareholders that profits in the current year to date are "excellent". In 1976, pre-tax profits reached £15.3m, putting it in the "elite group of the top 4 per cent of United Kingdom quoted companies in terms of profits". Betting, which contributed 100 per cent of United Kingdom profits in 1970, now produces only one-third.

Ladbroke covers retail betting, casinos, entertainments, hotels, holidays, racecourse management and property. It operated 956 retail betting units at the end of 1976 and has boosted its share of market turnover to 14 per cent, maintaining its position as brand leader.

With the opening this month of a new casino at the Park Tower Hotel, the casinos division now runs four casinos in London's prime tourist area, providing substantial foreign currency earnings.

The refurbished bingo and social clubs are now attracting



Mr Cyril Stein, chairman of Ladbroke.

over 2,000 new members every week and excellent figures are being achieved.

Group assets now total £115m, the outstanding change in the year being investment properties which have increased by £17m to £44m. These properties are still included at cost pending revaluation which is expected to show a substantial surplus.

One-for-four rights by Farnell

Coupled with increased profits and dividends, a rights issue comes from Farnell Electronics.

This electronic component stockholding group is raising £900,000 by a one-for-four issue at 80p. In the year to January 31 last, turnover rose from £10.18m to £14.12m and pre-tax profits from £1.39m to £1.97m. The total gross payment is raised from 5.35p to 5.9p. It forecasts a total dividend of 10p for the current year to which the Treasury has agreed.

Thomson-Brant rights

Thomson-Brant SA the French electrical engineering group, intends to make a one-for-five free rights issue and raise the dividend for 1976 from 14.25 to 15.15 francs.—Reuter.

Hisamitsu's sharp rise

Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical Company in Tokyo in 1976-77, showed a sharp profit rise to February 28 to 343m yen (about £25,000) from 49m yen a year earlier.

Sales in the year rose to 9,800m yen from 8,000m yen in 1976.—APDJ.

International

2 oil groups show first-quarter loss

Mr Charles E. Spahr, chairman of Standard Oil, Ohio, blamed the earnings decline as a contributory factor for the drop in operational results. Net profit in the first quarter fell from \$24.3m (about £14.2m) to \$18.7m. Sales were \$823m against \$717.5m.

Lower first quarter earnings were also reported by the Exxon Corporation. Earnings before financial charges were down 2 per cent to \$713m.

Eurobond issues

Mortgage Investment Company BM-RT plans to raise \$25m through a five-year Eurobond with an expected coupon of 8 1/2 per cent. The lead manager is Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities). The issue is guaranteed by the BM-RT Realty Investment Trust.

Messville Development Finance Corporation of New Zealand (DFC) intends to issue \$20m notes due in 1984, through a syndicate of banks headed by Citicorp.

Slow start at Ldn Brick

Trading in the first few weeks of the current year has been depressed at London Brick. Deliveries have been affected by poor demand and also waterlogged building sites. The fall in MLR is hopeful for the group, as richer building societies could give a boost to housing starts.

ENGLISH PROPERTY

Details of conversion rights on English Property Corporation's 61 per cent loan stock confirm Eagle Star Insurance's intention not to make its holding beyond the 30 per cent mark. The insurer converted just under 21m of its stock taking its holding in EPC to 27.2 per cent.

HAWTIN JUMPS

Turnover rose from £2.6m to £4.7m for year to January 31. Pre-tax profit is £584,000 (£237,000). Earnings a share 1.52p (0.66p).

Briefly

BROOKS WATSON

On turnover of £66.9m for 1976 (£53.1m), pre-tax profit, £1.2m (£656,000). Earnings a share 0.66p (£3.89p). Dividend is 2.77p (1.6p) gross.

MACFARLANE STEADY

Turnover steady for 1976 at £7.6m (£7.5m). Pre-tax profit, £623,000 against £605,000. Dividend 5.28p (3.12p) gross.

GEERS GROSS

Turnover for 1976 up from £5.6m to £5.61m and pre-tax profit from £221,000 to £229,000. Total gross dividend raised from 3.23p (adjusted) to 3.48p, maximum permitted.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US \$ STRAIGHTS	1976	1975	1974	1973
Australia \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Canada \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
France \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Germany \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Italy \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Japan \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Netherlands \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Spain \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Sweden \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Switzerland \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
UK \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
US \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
West Germany \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Yugoslavia \$ 1983	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Other	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

William Baird

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	Year ended 31st December 1976	1975
	£'000	£'000
Turnover	81,716	65,050
Operating Profit		
Textiles: Baird Textile Holdings	2,589	693
Dawson International (39.7% of profit)	1,819	13
Industrial: Darchen	4,408	707
Services	1,364	1,089
Investments	157	573
	141	430
Interest payable and Central Administration	6,070	2,798
	(1,239)	(1,024)
Profit before taxation	4,831	1,774
Profit after taxation and outside shareholders' interests	3,046	1,086
Issued capital in £1 Ordinary Stock Units	13,763	11,251
Earnings per £1 Ordinary Stock	22.1p	9.7p
Dividends: net	8,310p	7,555p
with related tax credits (at 35%)	12,785p	11,621p

Notes:
1. Group results for 1976 include figures for Thomas Marshall Investments for nine months to 31st December 1976.
2. During the year the Group's 20% holding in Sutherland-Harvey was sold. Operating Profit of Sutherland-Harvey 1976—dividend from that company £24,000, 1975—share of profit £281,000.

Salient points from Mr. S.A. Field's Statement to stockholders

- * Improved profitability
- * Increased dividend
- * Textile recovery maintained
- * Satisfactory growth in Industrial profits
- * Restructuring of Services completed
- * Continued improvement in sales and profits for the first quarter of 1977

The Report and Accounts 1976, including the Chairman's Statement in full, will be dispatched to stockholders on Tuesday, 3rd May 1977. The Annual General Meeting will be held in Glasgow on Friday, 27th May 1977.

William Baird & Company Limited

Administrative Offices: City Wall House, 84/90 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4TP.
Registered Office: 168 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2NS.

Arab Bank Ltd



Highlights of 1976 results

Continuous growth
Record balance sheet figures were reached in 1976, nearly double those of 1975.

Record earnings
Earnings increased from JD36 million in 1975 to JD52 million in 1976.

New branches
Five new branches were opened during the year.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1976

ASSETS	1976	1975	LIABILITIES	1976	1975
	JD'000	JD'000		JD'000	JD'000
CASH IN HAND & AT BANKS	382,342	255,010	DEPOSITS & OTHER ACCOUNTS	681,628	468,588
ITEMS IN TRANSIT (between branches)	4,393	—	ITEMS IN TRANSIT (between branches)	—	3,274
BONDS (Government & Other)	24,305	25,185	CAPITAL AUTHORIZED & FULLY PAID (JD10 per share)	11,000	5,500
INVESTMENTS (incl. Subsidiaries)	6,203	4,733	STATUTORY RESERVE	6,000	4,750
BILLS DISCOUNTED	33,078	23,303	GENERAL RESERVE	10,000	7,000
LOANS TO CUSTOMERS	248,085	181,177	VOLUNTARY RESERVE	3,000	2,750
BANK PREMISES (less depreciation)	2,286	1,781	NET PROFIT (for distribution)	1,106	1,106
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT (less depreciation)	753	596			
OTHER ASSETS	1,309	1,183			
TOTAL ASSETS	712,734	492,968	TOTAL LIABILITIES	712,734	492,968
CUSTOMERS' LIABILITY (GUARANTEES, CREDITS & ACCEPTANCES (per contra))	659,030	360,489	GUARANTEES, CREDITS & ACCEPTANCES (per contra)	659,030	360,489
	1,371,764	853,457		1,371,764	853,457

Jordan Dinar (JD) = U.S.\$3.02 (approximately)

Stock Exchange Prices

Subdued start to the account

Account Days: Dealings Began, April 25, Dealings End, May 6. § Conrango Day, May 9. Settlement Day, May 17.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

For Really Discerning Drinkers

HIGH & DRY

Really Dry Gin

A black and white photograph of a bottle of High & Dry Really Dry Gin. The bottle is dark with a light-colored label that features the brand name and a crest. The bottle is positioned on the right side of the advertisement, next to the main text.[illegible]

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 25

SECRETARIAL



Merrill Lynch

A LEADING FIRM OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT DEALERS LOCATED IN MODERN BUILDING NEAR ST. PAUL'S AND HOLBORN HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPENINGS:

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
Shorthand typist with audio required for Investment Banking Department. A responsible and interesting position for bright, intelligent person.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
Good shorthand typist with organizational skills required for office manager of Research Department. Interesting position for responsible person.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
Secretary, shorthand not essential, with working knowledge of French and top English skills required for Investment Banking Department. A responsible and interesting position for person able to work on own initiative.

SALARIES NEGOTIABLE/FRINGE BENEFITS.
Contact Jo Howard: 236 1030.

£4,000+
SEC/PA

The London office of an International group of newspapers requires a responsible, mature person with good secretarial skills who would appreciate being involved in the editorial and administrative side of a very busy office. This demanding job offers an attractive salary in return for a professional attitude.

Telephone 353 8135

PROMOTIONS

Promotions Co. needs a Senior PA/Secretary with the ability to help organize Meetings. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the Music Business essential. £2,500 p.w.

MUSIC

Entertainment Co. needs a first-class PA/Secretary to play an active part in the planning and organization of the Music Business. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the Music Business essential. £2,500 p.w.

ADVERTISING

Intelligent, experienced PA/Secretary for a leading advertising agency. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the advertising industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

INTERIOR DESIGN

PA/Secretary for a leading interior design firm. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the interior design industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

PATHFINDERS 629 3132

32 Bedford Sq., W.C.1.
(1 min Oxford Circus Tube)

CREATIVELY INCINED?

Design studio, W.C.2, needs a creative, self-motivated person to help with the design and production of advertising material. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the advertising industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

ITCHY FEET? GO PLACES AND EARN £7,000+

Building a new career? We need you to work for a team of Engineers in Frankfurt. Two first-class, experienced secretaries with the ability to translate German/English. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the engineering industry essential. £7,000 p.w.

SENIOR SECRETARIES OVERSEAS DIVISION

175 New Bond St., W.1.
01-493 6622
01-493 6601

A WARM RECEPTION

We're a specialist Recruitment Company and we're looking for a friendly, experienced secretary to join our team. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the recruitment industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

NEW JOB PLUS CHANCE OF A FLAT!

Non-City Bank seeks Secretary. 20+ years of experience. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the banking industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

PRESTIGE

Elite Agents need a Secretary to join their team. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the real estate industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

BROOK STREET BUREAU 580 8991

FLUENT GERMAN NEEDED IN ST. JAMES'S

Assistant to a German Secretary in a busy office. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the secretarial industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

MONICA CAREY RECRUITMENT LTD 839 1082

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Director of established International Property Co. needs a good secretary. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the real estate industry essential. £2,500 p.w.

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SECRETARIAL

PENGUIN BOOKS

PA/SECRETARY TO EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

£2,778 + Bonus

Penguin Books Limited, the UK market leader in paperback publishing, has a vacancy for an Arts Graduate with audio typing skills to work as a PA/Secretary to their Editorial Director concerned with adult publishing, especially fiction.

The successful applicant, probably in his/her mid-to-late twenties, will be expected to provide not only the usual secretarial services (excluding shorthand), but also to take on a number of semi-editorial tasks as the job develops.

The company offers excellent conditions in friendly offices near Victoria station, L.V.S. 20 days holiday and a twice annual bonus. Applications, with detailed C.V., should be sent by first class post to the address below and should reach us not later than first post on Friday, 26th April. Mrs M. Byzantine, Norma Stamp Personnel Services Ltd., 14 Broadway SW1 0HB.

PENGUIN BOOKS LIMITED

A SECRETARY

is required to work in an office situated immediately above Marylebone railway station. The job involves a high level of responsibility and a high level of accuracy. The successful candidate will be expected to provide not only the usual secretarial services (excluding shorthand), but also to take on a number of semi-editorial tasks as the job develops.

Salary £3,051/£3,588. Good conditions of service including 20 days holiday and a twice annual bonus. Applications, with detailed C.V., should be sent by first class post to the address below and should reach us not later than first post on Friday, 26th April. Mrs M. Byzantine, Norma Stamp Personnel Services Ltd., 14 Broadway SW1 0HB.

Salary £3,000

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LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS SECRETARY

for a Group of Lecturers in the Department of Economics. Applicants should be over 21, with a good educational background and excellent shorthand and typing skills. We offer generous holidays, pension scheme and salary on a scale to £25,123.

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01-406 7686, ext 672 for an application form.

P.A. £3,500 ADMIN.

Deal with management committee, finance and all other business. Complete reports on various projects. Must be self-motivated and able to accept responsibility. Experience in the secretarial industry essential. £3,500 p.w.

Apply, saving age and details of experience to THE PRINCIPAL, PERSONNEL OFFICER, BRITISH WATERWAYS BOARD, WILLOW GRANGE, CHURCH ROAD, WATFORD, W.C.11. Quoting reference number 61/151.

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